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New-York Tribune.

THE

CIPHER DISPATCHES.

Always standing fast in the final citadel of Power, the keen, bright sunlight of publicity.

—[MANTON MARBLE, *Letter on "The Electoral Commission."*

EXTRA NO. 44.

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New York Tribune

THE CIPHER DISPATCHES.

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Always standing fast in the final citadel of Power, the keen, bright sunlight of publicity.

—[MANTON MARBLE, *Letter on "The Electoral Commission."*

TRIBUNE EXTRA NO. 44.

NEW-YORK, 1879.

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INTRODUCTION.

In the following pages an effort is made to present concisely a connected account of the translation of the cipher dispatches and of their revelations. We first began dealing seriously with these dispatches during the Summer of 1878. The fact that the publication of the famous "Gobble" message had soon brought forward a person familiar with the cipher in which it was sent, led to the belief that a similar result might be reached again. Specimens of the various ciphers were accordingly published, from time to time, accompanied with comments, intended to attract to them wide attention. Our hope, however, was completely disappointed. No one seemed to know the key. Absolutely no help came from any quarter. All manner of suggestions were received, and many were tried, but none proved in the end to be of the slightest practical value, save a single one communicated by Secretary Evarts. That gentleman suggested that possibly a thorough student of pure mathematics might be able to divine the law on which the ciphers were constructed.

Copies of a few of the dispatches were thereupon sent to a mathematical professor in a distant city, who had kindly offered to attempt a translation, on the condition that his name should under no circumstances be made public; and although (having comparatively little material to work with), he did not succeed in discovering the system upon which the ciphers were constructed, and never sent a single translation until after the same thing had been translated in the office, his work had, nevertheless, considerable value, as corroborating the results attained by others, before they had reached the point where their work proved itself.

Finally, I committed a large number of the dispatches to Mr. John R. G. Hassard, Chief of The Tribune Staff, and a serious and determined effort for their translation was fairly begun. Shortly afterward Colonel William M. Grosvenor, also of The Tribune Staff, who had become greatly interested in the specimen dispatches thrown out, asked for a chance at the same work, and a considerable number of the dispatches were confided to him. These gentlemen at first worked independently of each other, and without communication. For a time both groped blindly, if not hopelessly, in what seemed the impenetrable darkness of the ciphers. About the same date each began to get glimmerings of the system on which the double cipher was constructed. When, after weeks of labor, they first compared notes, Mr. Hassard had found two transposition keys and was just finishing a third, while Colonel Grosvenor had found three others. The system being thus discovered, the rest were found much more rapidly. The last was discovered by both gentlemen on the same evening, the one working at Litchfield, Conn.,

the other at Englewood, N. J. Each hastened to transmit the key to me, and the two letters came upon my table the next day within an hour of each other.

A dictionary cipher baffled research much longer. Its character was easily determined in the office, but the dictionary on which it was constructed could not be found. One circumstance, however, at last demonstrated that the dictionary in question must be some one of the editions of Webster, for one or two words occurred in some of the dispatches sent in this cipher which were not found in any of the modern English dictionaries, excepting Webster's. Mr. Isaac N. Ford, of THE TRIBUNE Staff, had meantime laboriously gone through forty or fifty dictionaries of all sorts and sizes, omitting unluckily the very one which had at first been suspected, for the reason that it happened to be the only one not on the shelves of the downtown bookstore where these searches were made. Just as the hunt was narrowed down to this particular dictionary, the mathematical professor telegraphed that this dictionary was the basis of the key, and in twenty-four hours the ciphers it contained were unlocked.

After the main work had been done, a number of dispatches among local politicians at the South, apparently of minor importance, sent in ciphers of a different character from any previously translated, were attacked by Mr. Hassard. Among these were the double number and the double letter ciphers. I had intrusted in all about 400 dispatches to Mr. Hassard and Colonel Grosvenor. When they had finished their labors only three of that whole collection remained untranslated. These are in ciphers

of which there are no other examples, and they have not yet been mastered.

In the original publications, it was found almost impossible to get any considerable collection of cipher dispatches printed with entire typographical accuracy. There being absolutely no guide from either the sense or the sound, printers and proof-readers were alike liable to constant error, which only the most painstaking watchfulness by an expert could detect. In the following pages the ciphers have been revised and re-revised until they are now believed to be printed with entire accuracy.

Valuable aid was rendered by many of the younger gentlemen in the office, and as the hunt became keener, almost the entire Staff took part in it. The credit of translation, however, belongs absolutely to Mr. Hassard and Colonel Grosvenor. They received no assistance from any outside quarter, excepting from the mathematical professor before mentioned, and received from him no translation whatever, and no important clew, until after they had discovered it themselves.

TRIBUNE OFFICE,
14 Jan., 1879.

W. R.

The Tribune.

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THE CIPHER DISPATCHES.

SECRET HISTORY OF THE ELECTORAL CANVASS IN 1876.

"Shall I not ring fire-bell in night?"

—MANTON MARBLE, Cipher Dispatch to W. T. PELTON, Nov. 19, 1876.

The history of the electoral crisis in November and December, 1876, as disclosed by the cipher dispatches of the Democratic leaders and their secret agents, covers a period of about twenty-eight days, from the 8th of November, when it first became apparent that the Presidency depended upon the count of the vote in two or three doubtful States, until the 6th of December, when the electoral ballots were duly cast for Hayes and Wheeler. By deciphering these telegrams THE TRIBUNE has discovered that agents were at once sent out from No. 15 Gramercy Park, the residence of Mr. Samuel J. Tilden, to South Carolina, Florida, and Louisiana, and that others, at the West, received telegraphic orders to proceed immediately to Oregon, in order to "capture" one or all of those States for the Democratic candidate. They all resorted to bribery, communicating to Mr. Tilden's nephew, Colonel W. T. Pelton, the par-

ticulars of the bargains they concluded, and receiving from him a distinct and formal approval.

1. In Florida the secret agents were Manton Marble, C. W. Woolley, and John F. Coyle. Marble transmitted to Gramercy Park, first a proposition for the purchase of the Florida Returning Board at the price of **$200,000.** That was rejected as extravagant, and the figure was reduced to **$50,000,** at which price Colonel Pelton signified his willingness to close the transaction. It fell through in consequence of a delay in the receipt of the message of acceptance.

2. In South Carolina the purchasing agent was Smith M. Weed. He telegraphed to Colonel Pelton, on the very day of his arrival at Columbia, a proposal to buy the Canvassing Board for **$30,000,** to which Pelton appears to have readily assented. This figure was too low, and the negotiation, after lasting six days, was closed at the price of **$80,000.** It was arranged that Weed should meet a messenger at Baltimore, who was to carry the money in three packages; and he particularly requested that Colonel Pelton should act as this messenger himself. Weed accordingly arrived in Baltimore from Columbia on the 20th of November, and Pelton arrived there at the same time from New-York; but again a little delay upset the scheme. Subsequently a plot was formed to buy four members of the South Carolina Legislature, for **$20,000,** and having thus obtained control of the State government, to put the Hayes electors in jail, and lock them up in separate cells until the day for casting the electoral votes had passed. The result of this villany would have been to deprive South Carolina of any vote, and to throw the choice of a President into the House of Representatives, which would have elected Tilden. The plan failed because the four members could not be bought.

3. In Oregon the Democratic Governor withheld a certificate from one of the Hayes electors on the ground of ineligibility, and, instead of allowing the other electors to fill the vacancy, gave the certificate to a Tilden elector named Cronin, who had clearly been defeated. The secret agent in Oregon was one J. N. H. Patrick. He telegraphed to Colonel Pelton that it was necessary to "purchase a Republican elector to recognize and act with" Cronin, and the price was **$5,000.** This proposal likewise was accepted, and the money was sent to Oregon, where it arrived only on the 6th of December, just too late to be of any use.

THE CIPHER TELEGRAMS.

THE CODES USED, AND HOW THEY WERE DISCOVERED.

Always standing fast in the final citadel of power, the keen bright sunlight of publicity.—[MANTON MARBLE, *Letter on "The Electoral Commission," August*, 1878.

In the Summer of 1878 THE NEW-YORK TRIBUNE found itself in possession of a mass of telegraphic dispatches which had passed between certain leaders of the Democratic party in New-York City and their confidential agents in various contested States, at the time of the canvass of the electoral votes in 1876. The whole number of these dispatches was not far from 400. About half of them were in plain English; these, although they were sometimes useful in determining the meaning of messages of another kind, related generally to transactions of little importance. The rest were in cipher, and a slight examination was sufficient to show that they covered political secrets of the first consequence. They comprised:

1. Telegrams between the Democratic managers in New-York and their agents in California and Oregon, relative to the granting of a certificate to one of the Democratic electors who was not elected, and the "purchase of a Republican elector to recognize and act with him."

2. Telegrams between the Democratic managers in New-York and their friends and secret agents in Florida during the progress of the count.

3. Telegrams between these New-York managers and their friends and secret agents in Louisiana during the same critical period.

4. Telegrams between these New-York managers and their friends and secret agents in South Carolina during the operations of the Canvassing Board at Columbia, and the argument before the State Supreme Court, by whose interference Mr. Tilden's representatives hoped to control the action of the Board.

5. Various dispatches between local Democratic politicians in Florida and South Carolina.

Many of the Oregon telegrams had been already published, and as the key to the cipher in which they were written was known, the translation of the rest was little more than a clerical labor. The Louisiana dispatches were fragmentary. The Florida and South Carolina correspondence seemed to be almost complete and of serious value, and to this THE TRIBUNE applied itself, with results which will be found in the following pages.

The task of translation was undertaken by two members of the editorial staff of THE TRIBUNE, Mr John R. G. Hassard and Colonel William M. Grosvenor, who, working apart from each other, Colonel Grosvenor with the Florida telegrams, and Mr. Hassard with those belonging to the South Carolina case, arrived independently and almost simultaneously at the same solution of the puzzle. Copies of some of the ciphers from each State were sent to a gentleman in another city, and he, pursuing a different system of deciphering from that adopted by the other two, discovered, nevertheless, several of the same keys which had been found by Messrs. Grosvenor and Hassard, and produced translations which agreed exactly with theirs.

THE CIPHER SYSTEMS.

The ciphers employed were of several kinds. The Oregon correspondence was conducted by what is generally called the "Dictionary Cipher." Here the first word of the message to be sent was sought in a dictionary previously agreed upon, and the sender substituted for it the word which occupied the corresponding line a certain number of pages forward or back. The second word was treated in the same way, and so on until the whole message had been turned into cipher. The person who received it got at the translation by reversing this process. The book used in the Oregon affair was a little "Household English Dictionary," published by T. Nelson & Sons, London, and the ciphers were translated by turning back four pages. It happened that the Democratic agent in Oregon had previously used a modification of this system in connection with mining transactions, and when one of the political messages was intercepted and published, a Western business man recognized the cipher, and a translation of all the dispatches of that class which had then been secured was readily made. The first complete and correct publication of them appeared in THE TRIBUNE of September 4, 1878. The dictionary cipher was also used in a few of the South Carolina and Florida messages, but the book adopted for these was evidently not the same that served in Oregon, and there was no clew to the rule by which it was to be used. To find it, however, was not a serious difficulty. It was only necessary to try every dictionary within

reach till one was discovered by which it was possible to make sense. Two or three principles assumed at the start helped to abridge the labor. First, it was taken for granted that, as a matter of convenience, the number of pages to be turned, either backward or forward, would not exceed six or seven, and the trials were consequently kept within that limit. Secondly, the dictionary was either a very large or a very small one, since the correspondents must have adopted one of the great standard works to be found in every considerable town, or a pocket abridgment convenient to carry in travelling. Thirdly, the key was a shifting-key, because words were not often repeated; if the number of pages to be turned had been always the same, many of the ciphers would have recurred frequently. After a long search, the book was found to be Webster's "Pocket Dictionary of the English Language," and the number of pages to be turned varied from one to five.

Another system of cryptograms, of which comparatively few examples are found, was devised by substituting numbers for all the most important, or, as one might say, "tell-tale" words. This may be described as the "Number Cipher." It was generally used in combination with another, and the method of translating it will be described further on. The following is a specimen:

TALLAHASSEE, Dec. 1.

To HENRY HAVEMEYER, *New-York:*

Sixteen fetch may make thirteen forty of half of a twelve eleven ten can you say two in nine immediately if twenty. FOX.

Some messages contained numbers and nothing else. The local politicians occasionally corresponded in that simplest and most futile of all cryptograms, which consists merely in the substitution of one letter for another; and there was a simple Substitution Cipher, used only for a short time in South Carolina, which was constructed by using arbitrary equivalents for a few of the principal "tell-tale" words. This will be described in the course of the narrative.

THE TRANSPOSITION CIPHER.

For a very large majority, however, of all the Southern secret dispatches there was one system of double cipher, unvarying in its principle, though changing often in its details and mode of application; and a little examination of the pile of telegrams made it clear that, the key to this being found, there would be little difficulty in reading the most important part of the correspondence. The system consisted of a cipher within a cipher. First, arbitrary words — generally geographical proper names—were substituted for all tell-tale expressions. One rarely finds, for instance, "Democrat" or "Radical," "Hayes" or "Tilden," "Returning Board" or "Elector," "Governor" or "President," or numbers, or the name of any State. Secondly, these substitutions having been made, the message was broken up and dislocated, the words being taken out of their proper order, and arranged as if they had been shaken in a bag, drawn out at random, and set down as chance dictated. Here is the beginning of a long dispatch that has been treated in the way described:

Have Rhine river as is of follows Edinburgh river Mississippi been of Rhine Copenhagen river Rhine Syracuse parcel to secured Danube Potomac river sent Chicago London Edinburgh be river of.

It might be supposed that the dislocated words could always be put together again by the exercise of a little ingenuity and patience; but anybody who may try the experiment—for example, with the lines quoted above (which are complete in sense so far as they go, though they are only a fragment of a dispatch)—will see that the task is by no means a light one. When the meaning of all the words is understood, it will generally be found that a transposed dispatch can be rearranged in a variety of ways, all making good sense and good grammar, but all disagreeing hopelessly in significance; and when the perplexity is increased by the introduction of a number of blind words, of which one does not even know whether they are nouns, or verbs, or adjectives, the attempt to reconstruct the sentences without the aid of a key is almost hopeless. And yet the proper sequence of all the words *must* be ascertained before even an intelligent guess can be made at the meaning of any considerable number of the blind words. The double cipher is, therefore, one of the most difficult cryptograms ever devised. But almost any cipher, however intricate and ingenious, can be read if the translator have a sufficient number of specimens to work with; and there was certainly no lack of material in this case.

DISCOVERY OF THE FIRST KEY.

The beginning of the discovery was a fortunate guess at the meaning of one of the blind words. A substitution-cipher that occurs with notable frequency is "Warsaw." It is found in almost all the longer dispatches; occasionally it takes inflections, as "Warsawed." The conjecture immediately presented itself that it signified either "telegraph" or "answer"; but as the latter word is used without disguise in some of the same messages which contain "Warsaw," the other alternative was assumed to be the right one—an assumption which later discoveries speedily confirmed, "Warsaw" proving to be the equivalent of both "telegraph" and "telegram." Accepting this definition as correct, the following dispatch of ten words was read so easily that it might almost be said to rearrange itself at first sight:

[Cipher.]

COLUMBIA, Nov. 14, 1876.

To HENRY HAVEMEYER, *New-York:*

Warsaw they read all unchanged last are idiots can't situation. W.

[Translation.]

Can't read last telegram. Situation unchanged. They are all idiots.

The words in this dispatch are transposed according to the following order: 9, 3, 6, 1, 10, 5, 2, 7, 4, 8. Or, to make the matter plainer, let us num-

ber the words of the cipher, and illustrate the process of transposition:

[Cipher.]

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Warsaw	they	read	all	unchanged	last	are	idiots

9	10
can't	situation.

To make the translation, according to the key given above, the 9th word of the cipher must come first, the 3d next, and then must follow in order the 6th, 1st, 10th, 5th, 2d, 7th, 4th and 8th. The same sequence was tried on other dispatches. It fitted none until a second message of exactly ten words was found, as follows:

[Cipher.]

Me with you Anna communication put Weed Charles can in. S.

This yielded to the same key of transposition, and the words being rearranged according to the sequence already given, stood thus:

[Translation.]

Can you put me in communication with Weed? Anna Charles.

The meaning of "Anna Charles" was still dark, but there could be no reasonable doubt that the right sequence of words had been found, and this conviction was strengthened when a third 10-word message yielded readily to the same key. But there were very few of these short messages in the bundle, and the sequence that applied to them would not fit any part of a longer dispatch. Evidently there was more than one key. But how did the person who received the cipher message know what key to use in translating it?

THE TRANSPOSITION SYSTEM.

The inquiry had reached this point, when the curious circumstance was noticed that the number of words in every transposition telegram was a multiple of five. This, at least, was the strict general rule, though a few exceptions to it will be noticed later. The shortest message consisted of 10 words; then there were two or three of 15 words; there were many of 20, of 25, of 30, of 40, of 50 words, and they ran up into the hundreds, always proceeding by fives. This could not be accidental; and the suggestion naturally arose that there was a connection between the regularity of these blocks of numbers and the system of transposing them, so that the length of the dispatch was the clew which guided the person who received it in the selection of the key to the transposition. Then supposing that there was one sequence of numbers for a 10-word message, and another for a message of 15 words, and another for a message of 20, and so on, it would only be necessary for the receiver to count the words in the telegram in order to know upon which of several prearranged sequences it had been constructed. This theory was at once tested by a group of 30-word telegrams. Five messages of that length were selected, written out in parallel columns, one word under another, and every word numbered, thus:

No. of word	*First dispatch.*	*Second dispatch.*	*Third dispatch.*	*Fourth dispatch.*	*Fifth dispatch.*
1....	Me	Very	Figure	To	Rochester
2....	you	news	France	situation	of
3....	do	say	capture	prospects	answer
4....	to	Copenhagen	and	and	America
5....	did	to	over	Africa	yesterday
6....	to	from	what	desperate	to-day
7....	question	can	see	intend	understands
8....	when	Florida	answer	Thames	Thomas
9....	you	you	Europe	soon	my
10....	you	count	Moselle	Europe	Africa
11....	to	much	Russia	report	about
12....	morning	in	shall	every	but
13....	asked	be	little	mischief	it
14....	want	give	and	the	first
15....	where	what	appearances	Warsaw	avail
16....	go	Louisiana	about	in	at
17....	supposed	am	best	dispatch	my
18....	this	placed	hope	in	nothing
19....	until	if	Glasgow	acting	Bavaria
20....	come	mixed	will	this	as
21....	to-night	insure	up	will	will
22....	important	London	keep	state	Copenhagen
23....	and	Oregon	Oregon	all	once
24....	answer	few	America	concert	fear
25....	here	intend	be	morning	reported
26....	Warsawed	things	cao	parties	small
27....	adjourned	out	Potomac	France	by
28....	to-morrow	a	behind	in	and
29....	London	us	Edinburgh	and	satisfied
30....	you.	here.	I.	received.	hope.

The problem now was to find an arrangement of the numbers which would make sense of all five columns equally. It would not have been difficult perhaps to contrive a conjectural reading of the first column, for that contained only one unknown word; but the interpretation would have been no better than a guess unless the other four dispatches had confirmed it. The only systematic method of deciphering was to fit together little groups of words, trying every rational combination of two or three, and verifying the experiment by comparison with the corresponding words in the parallel columns. Almost always a few words can be found which seek each other's companionship obviously and naturally. These may be called "guide-words." In the first column for instance we have the word "adjourned" (27.) We know, by the date of the dispatch, (Columbia, November 13), that the man who wrote it was anxiously watching the proceedings of the South Carolina Board of State Canvassers, and the inference is clear that the only adjournment he would be likely to telegraph about was the adjournment of the Canvassing Board. We find no open mention of the Board in his telegram, but there is the substitution-cipher "London," which is used with great frequency all through the correspondence; if that means Canvassing Board, it will make a good nominative to "adjourned." Now we also know that the Board did not complete its labors till a week after this date; the adjournment then was not final, but to some particular day, and the day must have been given in the dispatch. "London adjourned until to-morrow" is a reading which not only seems rational, but agrees with the facts as we learn them from an examination of the newspaper files for November, 1876. We have, therefore, the sequence 29, 27, 19, 28, which makes sense in the

first column. In the second, it produces this arrangement of words "us out if a;" in the third and fourth it yields a large proportion of blind words which give us little or no help; in the fifth it produces "satisfied by Bavaria and." All these collocations look at least encouraging. The fragment of a sentence, or sentences, which we have obtained from the second column, "us out if a," contains two clews by which we can extend the sequence in both directions; plainly the word in that column which precedes "us out" is "count" (the 10th word), and the 25th and 5th words, "intend to," are just as clearly the words that lead up to "count." Our fragment now contains seven words, and it ends with the article "a" (28). There are only two words left in the column to which the indefinite article can possibly be applied—"few" (24) and the yet unknown "Copenhagen" (4). A comparison with the parallel words in the fifth column shows that "Copenhagen" will not do, and we take "few." Now the phrase "a few" must be followed by a plural noun, and unless "Copenhagen" stands for a plural noun the only one that remains is "things" (26). There is nothing in the other columns to help us in deciding between them, so we leave the sequence for the present and try some other blocks. We have already got the order, 25, 5, 10, 29, 27, 19, 28, 24, fitting perfectly in all the columns, so far as they are understood, and we know that the next number is either 4 or 26. Let us look for a guide-word now in one of the other columns. In the 4th column we find "dispatch" (17), and a most natural thing to say about a dispatch is that it has been "received" (30). It is very likely that the message begins with the acknowledgment "Dispatch received." This sequence (17, 30) gives us for the opening words of the other telegrams, (1st) "Supposed you"; (2d) "Am here"; (3d) "Best I," and (5th) "My hope." The verb which seems most appropriately to follow "Best I" is "can" (26), and the same order gives in other columns "My hope small," "supposed you telegraphed," and so on, besides settling our choice between 4 and 26 as the next number in the sequence just left incomplete. In the third column we are irresistibly tempted to try the arrangement 22, 21, 15, "keep up appearances," and as that fits all the other telegrams, we accept it as correct.

Thus we have disposed of 15 of our 30 words, and the arrangement of the others is comparatively easy, because, of course, with the elimination of successive groups of numbers the possible permutations of the remainder are very rapidly diminished. It is unnecessary to illustrate the process in any further detail. Enough has been said to show that the formation of the separate blocks of words is not by mere random guessing, but in great part by a strict application of the rules of grammar and attention to known facts; that the succession of words is often not that which *may* be, but that which *must* be; and that whenever we resort to conjecture we verify it by repeated comparisons. Little by little the fragments fall easily into their appropriate places, and as they fit themselves together the hidden meaning shines forth, not simply in one dispatch, but simultaneously in the whole group of dispatches. This, then, is the sequence obtained, after repeated experiment and close study, for the set of 30-word messages given above: 17, 30, 26, 1, 11, 20, 25, 5, 10, 29, 27, 19, 28, 24, 4, 7, 13, 18, 12, 22, 21, 15, 3, 9, 14, 2, 6, 16, 23, 8;—that is to say, the seventeenth word of the cipher is the first word of the translated message, the thirtieth word of the cipher is the second word of the message, and so on. But there were many tests still to be applied to the solution. The key thus found was tried on a great many transposition-ciphers, some belonging to the Florida correspondence, others to the South Carolina collection, others to the Louisiana bundle—dispatches written to and from a number of persons. There were some which it did not fit, but it applied so perfectly to others, yielding at once an easy and intelligible translation without any forced construction of sentences, that no doubt remained of its strict accuracy. If the sequence had solved only two or three dispatches out of a large number, its application to those two or three might have been called an accident; but when it was found to suit two or three dozen written by different persons at different dates, and sent from different places to different persons, there could be no sort of question that it was a fixed rule. Furthermore, the sequence keys were not discovered by one person alone. Three investigators, working at a distance from each other, upon different bundles of telegrams, and without intercommunication, reached independently the same conclusions. Several of the keys were found by all three simultaneously.

The system being established, sequences of 15, of 20, and of 25 words were found by the same plan pursued in constructing the longer one.

CORRELATIVE KEYS.

In the course of this work it began to appear that for some of the groups of numbers, if not for all, there were *two* keys, either of which the correspondent could use at pleasure; and this explained the exceptional ciphers whose obstinate resistance to the first found keys had seemed so puzzling. Two sequences, both in frequent use, were found for the groups of 15 numbers, of 25, and of 30. Arguing from analogy that the other keys must likewise be double, the investigators made a thorough examination, which resulted, as they anticipated, in the finding of a second sequence of 20 numbers, and finally a second of 10. And this led to the interesting discovery that each of these second or supplementary keys was the correlative to the first of the same group. This law can best be explained by an example. Here is a cipher dispatch of 15 words, belonging to what may be called for convenience the first group; and to make the process clearer the words are numbered consecutively:

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9
Want Holcomb me you or would Judge if Warsaw
10 11 12 13 14 15
name come same Matthews on by.

The key to the transposition in the group to which this belongs was found by the inductive process already described to be: 8, 4, 1, 7, 13, 5, 2, 6, 11, 14, 9, 3, 15, 12, 10; that is to say, the 8th word of the cipher is the first word of the translation, the 4th word of the cipher is the second word of the translation, and so on; and the translated message accordingly reads:

8 4 1 7 13 5 2 6 11
If you want, Judge Matthews or Holcombwould come
14 9 3 15 12 10
on. Warsaw [telegraph] me by same name.

But this message can be equally well translated by the other sequence of the 15-word group, 3, 7, 12, etc., which had been found by an independent process of induction. In using this correlative key we write the numbers of it over the words of the dispatch as they stand in cipher,—thus:

3 7 12 2 6 8 4 1 11
Want Holcomb me you or would Judge if Warsaw
15 9 14 5 10 13
name come same Matthews on by.

Now pick out words 1, 2, 3, 4, etc., in the natural numerical order, and it will be seen that we have precisely the same translation which was obtained before. As a rule, when Key I. for example was used at this end of the line, the correlative Key II. was used at the other end; so that the translation of one dispatch gave the sequence upon which the receiver constructed his answer. This law holds good with all the sets of keys. If it had been discovered at first, it would have saved half the labor of translation; but coming at the end of the work it serves as a striking mathematical demonstration of the accuracy of the keys constructed without knowing the relations that existed among them.

COMBINATIONS OF KEYS.

The work was performed at first with short dispatches only. When the longer ones were undertaken, they were found to be all formed upon a combination of two or more of the ten sequences already discovered, or upon the repetition of some one of them. Messages of 60 words, for instance, were deciphered by applying a 30-word key twice. A message of 75 words was read by applying first a sequence of 15, and then using a 30-word key twice. A telegram of 135 words yielded to the following rather complicated formula: 15+25+25+20+25+25. The precise combination that had been used was perhaps not always apparent to the receiver, but a few trials with the bunch of keys would generally suffice. Occasionally the message itself gave the necessary directions for its interpretation. A telegram from Mr. Marble addressed to Colonel W. T. Pelton begins: "To Tilden. Repeating 25 cipher only;" and several repetitions of a 25-word sequence do interpret it. Another from the same person—a message of 200 words—begins: "Use four times five cipher," and yields to five applications of a 4×5 (i. e. 20)-word key. Occasionally, however, the receiver was perplexed, and telegraphed back for an explanation. Often it happened in these compound dispatches that a word was dropped by mistake of the writer or telegraph operator. In that case, of course, the subsequent words were thrown out of place; but by shifting all the numbers of the sequence one step the broken flow of the interpretation was at once restored. And it is also to be noticed that where this dropping of a word occurs, the dispatch falls short, by one, of the number of words necessary to make it a multiple of five. By following the key it is easy to see just where the omission has occurred. These irregularities, therefore, far from invalidating the principle of the key, are on the contrary a strong confirmation of its correctness. They are all traced to the same cause and all corrected by the same means.

Thus by reasoning, by historic illustration, by experiment, and by comparison all combined, THE TRIBUNE discovered the principle of the transposition cipher and learned how to apply it. Tried upon an immense variety of messages, never failing in any case, withstanding all conceivable tests of its accuracy, this explanation passed out of the realm of conjecture or probability, and became certain proof. It was reached by a slow and careful process of induction, just as the laws of natural science are found by the observation and comparison of facts. With this preliminary, to show that the interpretation proceeds, not by guesswork, but by proved rules, the following ten keys are presented, one or more of which will rearrange any of the transposed dispatches.

It is to be understood that the numbers represent the place of the words as they stand in the untranslated cipher, and the order of the numbers in each column is the order in which those cipher words must be arranged to give the meaning of the message:

TABLE OF KEYS.

10 words.		15 words.		20 words.		25 words.		30 words.	
I.	II.	III.	IV.	V.	VI.	VII.	VIII.	IX.	X.
9	4	8	3	6	12	6	18	17	4
3	7	4	7	9	18	12	12	30	26
6	2	1	12	3	3	23	6	26	23
1	9	7	2	5	5	18	25	1	15
10	6	13	6	4	4	10	14	11	8
5	3	5	8	13	1	3	1	20	27
2	8	2	4	14	20	17	16	25	16
7	10	6	1	20	16	20	11	5	30
4	1	11	11	19	2	15	21	10	24
8	5	14	15	12	19	19	5	29	9
		9	9	17	13	8	15	27	5
		3	14	1	10	2	2	19	19
		15	5	11	6	24	17	28	17
		12	10	15	7	5	24	24	25
		10	13	18	14	11	9	4	22
				8	17	7	22	7	28
				16	11	13	7	13	1
				2	15	1	4	18	18
				10	9	25	10	12	12
				7	8	22	8	22	6
						9	23	21	21
						16	20	15	20
						21	3	3	29
						14	13	9	14
						4	19	14	7
								2	3
								6	11
								16	13
								23	10
								8	2

THE SUBSTITUTION CIPHERS.

After getting the solution of the transposition ciphers, the "blind words," or substitution ciphers, had next to be considered. Many of them explained themselves, as soon as the dispatches in which they occurred were arranged in proper order. Many were interpreted by the help of the newspaper files of the dates to which they belonged. Chosen arbitrarily as these words were, it might have been supposed that it would be necessary to rely almost wholly upon guess-work for their interpretation. This is so far from being the case that there is perhaps no part of the deciphering process in which the *proof* of the meaning is so clear as when it deals with these arbitrary substitutions. An instance has been mentioned in which the history of a day to which a certain dispatch refers supplied a strong inference as to the signification of the cipher-word "London." Inference, however, was not relied upon for the interpretation of this important word. To say nothing of the scores of instances in which the interpretation "Canvassing Board," as a substitute for "London" makes sense; there is one dispatch from New-Orleans, dated November 21, which settles the question beyond cavil. That dispatch reads in cipher:

Committees none London sub with but met Moselle canvassed our Thames admitted count tally counties.

Being translated by Key IV. it yields the following:

London met; admitted none but Moselle sub-committees. Thames counties canvassed tally with our count.

Now, it is known as a matter of history, that on the 20th of November there was great anxiety as to the probable action of the Louisiana Returning Board in regard to holding secret sessions. The visiting politicians of both National parties asked to be admitted; so did the friends and representatives of various local candidates, and a score of other persons. When it met on the morning of the 21st the Board decided to admit only "*two* sub-committees," i. e., a certain small number of the visiting Democrats and an equal number of the visiting Republicans. It then took up the returns, and *three* of the county returns which it canvassed were admitted by the Democrats to be correct. Here, then, is an absolute demonstration of the meaning of (1) London = Returning Board; (2) Moselle = two; (3) Thames = three. We set these down in our vocabulary, and look for light elsewhere. "Russia" appears to denote some important personage. Ex-Governor Bigler, who was one of the Tilden visitors at New-Orleans, wished to communicate with Russia in New-York, and he intrusted his message to somebody to put into cipher. It begins therefore in this form: "Bigler to Russia." But about that time we find Colonel Pelton asking Smith M. Weed at Columbia to "Telegraph what is the majority on Russia." Who was there in New-York who had been running for anything in South Carolina? Nobody but Mr. Tilden himself. And that he was Russia, there are a hundred things to show. Another South Carolina dispatch mentions a report that "America party are trading off Russia;" and as a matter of fact we know that the papers were full just at that time of a scheme of the South Carolina Conservatives to trade off Tilden for Hampton. By a somewhat similar course of observation, which will be apparent from the translated dispatches, "Greece" was ascertained to be Hayes; "Ithaca" was shown to stand for Democrats, and "Havana" for Republicans. "Rochester" was very often used, and here is a telegram which proves its meaning conclusively.

Returning Board attempted to count electoral *Rochester* this morning. We opposed, and they adjourned until 3. Think they are controlled [by] *Havana* party. They said they would count *Rochester* as they stood on face of returns, and that was all *Ithaca* asked.

"Rochester" of course can be nothing else but "votes" in this case, and there is certainly no difficulty in identifying "Ithaca" and "Havana," especially as it is known that the Democrats in South Carolina were then clamoring for a count of the vote on the face of the returns.

IDENTIFICATION OF NUMBERS.

It has already been seen how the same Louisiana dispatch which established the meaning of "London" also demonstrated that "Thames" meant "three," and "Moselle" meant "two." The interpreters soon saw reason to suspect that the names of rivers always represented numbers, and this turned out to be the case. The proofs are complete and simple. For example, a telegram from New-York to Columbia states that "friend will go through on train leaving here to-night at *Potomac* o'clock." One had only to consult the railway time-tables of that month to find out at what hour the night train for the South left Jersey City, and so it was learned that Potomac meant "six." Repeatedly figures of State or county majorities are given which can be interpreted by consulting the newspaper files, and so it was discovered that "Danube" was "five" and "Schuylkill" "seven." "River" is a very common word in connection with numbers. There is one long dispatch which has so many rivers in it that until the key of transposition was found the investigators used to speak of it as "the river dispatch." When the words were rearranged in their proper sequence three rivers came together after a numeral, thus "Danube (5) river river river." The dispatch evidently referred to a large amount, and to a lump sum; clearly "river" could be nothing else than 0. There is a New-Orleans dispatch in which the Democrats claim a majority of 85 [Mississippi Danube] to 89 [Mississippi Missouri] thousand. The meaning of "Mississippi" and of "Danube" had been ascertained before that dispatch was reached, but this was the first time of encountering "Missouri." Yet the interpretation was perfectly simple. The majority was said to be from 85 to 8—, the last unit being unknown. It must be something higher than 5. It was neither 6 nor 7; those numbers had been identified already; of course it was not 8, and there

was nothing left but 9. This led the decipherers a step further. They had all the units except 1 and 4, and two rivers remained, "Rhine" and "Hudson." The meaning of "Rhine" was speedily settled by a telegram in which, after giving the majority for the Hayes electors in South Carolina, "S." went on to say: "*Rhine* of Tilden's within 230 of their lowest." The journals of the period will show that one of the Tilden electors was said to be just that number of votes behind the lowest Republican elector and so "Rhine" was determined as "one," and "Hudson" as the equivalent of "four." "Glasgow" and "Edinburgh" are frequently found preceded by numerals, and never found alone. It would have been easy to guess that they stood for "hundred" and "thousand" respectively, but guessing is quite unnecessary; the care with which Mr. Tilden's agents telegraphed the figures of majorities supplied the proof of these interpretations.

IDENTIFICATION OF PERSONS.

The cipher dispatches were rarely signed by the real names of the writers, and yet it was easy to determine who the writers were. The telegrams were necessarily sent to a real address, and many of them either gave or called for an answer. When a message of inquiry is signed "Moses" and addressed to Colonel Pelton, and the answer to it is signed "Denmark" and addressed to Mr. Manton Marble, it needs no great sagacity to learn that Marble is "Moses," and that Pelton is "Denmark." Moreover, a great many of the dispatches belonged to a continued series of communications, all relating to one transaction and under the management of one or two persons. Somewhere in such a chain of telegrams the real names of these persons were sure to be disclosed—if not by a direct answer to their questions, then by side-lights thrown upon the correspondence by allusions in other dispatches. Several telegrams of no apparent consequence in themselves proved very useful indirectly by settling a doubt as to somebody's identity. Nearly all the persons mentioned in the ciphers have made public statements since the translations were printed in THE TRIBUNE, and have virtually acknowledged their pseudonyms; while none of the conclusions of THE TRIBUNE as to the identity of "Max," "Fox," "Moses," etc., have been denied. There is no doubt, therefore, that "Moses" represents Manton Marble, "Fox" is C. W. Woolley, "Max" is John F. Coyle, "Denmark" is Wm. T. Pelton, and "W." (in South Carolina) is Smith M. Weed. Most of Mr. Marble's dispatches appear in cipher to be unsigned, and were marked by the telegraph operator "No sig." This is because he (unlike the other correspondents) generally counted the signature "Moses" as one of the words in his sequence of fives, and when the transposition was made by the cipher key the signature was accordingly shifted into the body of the dispatch, where the operator, of course, did not recognize it. In translation, it fell into its proper place at the end. It has been ascertained that the telegrams addressed to Henry Havemeyer, New-York, were really intended for Colonel W. T. Pelton, the nephew of Mr. Tilden, and an inmate of Mr. Tilden's house, No. 15 Gramercy Park. Mr. Havemeyer could not read them; and his name was used merely as a blind.

DUMB WORDS.

In many cipher systems the use of "dumb words" or "nulls," that is, words thrown in merely to confuse, is common. There is something of the same sort in the transposition and substitution-cipher. It was necessary to fill the sequence of numbers exactly, or else the key would not fit, and when the dispatch fell short of the proper length "nulls" were added to complete the measure. In the form in which the cipher was sent these unmeaning words appeared scattered all over the dispatch, but when it was transposed for translation they all fell together at the end. There were only a few of them—Anna, Charles, Thomas, Jane, Captain, Lieutenant, etc., and, of course, they were easily recognized. There is one dispatch which really consists only of the three words, "Matters desperate here," but to these seven "nulls" are added, in order to make out the sequence of ten. It was hardly worth while, perhaps, to go through so much for the sake of getting so little; but many foolish things are to be found in the cipher dispatches.

THE NUMBER-CIPHER.

Beside the main cipher, the interpretation of which is absolutely demonstrable, a second set of substituted words is used in eighteen dispatches relating mainly to transfers of small sums of money for expenses. This is the "Number-Cipher" already alluded to. The translation of some of these ciphers, also, is so fully sustained by proof that entire certainty exists as to their meaning, but others are used in so few instances that the complete key cannot be said to be surely ascertained. The following interpretation, however, has been tested first by its application to every dispatch in which that cipher is used, and secondly, by the connection of the dispatches thus translated with the mass of open dispatches, or those translated by the keys of assured correctness, and in every case the interpretation is found to fit exactly. Moreover, Mr. John F. Coyle, who used this cipher, has publicly acknowledged that the translations of THE TRIBUNE are correct. The cipher, he said in a letter to *The Herald*, was "almost as difficult to us to use as it has proved to THE TRIBUNE to translate."

THE VOCABULARY.

The following list contains the substitution ciphers whose meaning seems to be distinctly proved. Certain words are used in a very peculiar way. In the main transposition cipher, "America," "France" and "Europe" stand sometimes for the States of South Carolina, Florida and Louisiana; sometimes for Wade Hampton, Governor Stearns and Governor Kellogg; sometimes, also, for the local political organizations of which these persons were the heads.

VOCABULARY.

MAIN CIPHER.

Africa.....Chamberlain.
America.....Hampton.
Amsterdam..bills.
Bolivia.....proposal.
Brazil.....too high [?]
Bavaria.....?
Bremen.....Commissioner [?]
Chicago .....cost.
Chili.....?
Copenhagen..dollars.
Denmark....Colonel Pelton.
Europe.....Louisiana.
Europe.....Governor Kellogg.
Fox.....C. W. Woolley.
France.....Florida.
France.....Governor Stearns.
Greece.....Hayes.
Havana.....Republicans.
Israel.....Manton Marble.
Ithaca.....Democrats.
Lima.....accept.
London.....Canvassing Board.
Louis.....Governor.
Max.....John F. Coyle.
Monroe.....county.
Moses.....Manton Marble.
Paris.....draw.
Petersburg..deposit.
Portugal ....?
Rochester....votes.
Russia.....Tilden.
Syracuse.....majority.
Utica .....trading.
Vienna..... ..payable.
Warsaw .....telegraph, telegram.

Numbers:

River.....0.
Rhine .....1.
Moselle.....2.
Thames.....3.
Hudson.....4.
Danube.....5.
Potomac.....6.
Schuylkill ..7.
Mississippi ..8.
Missouri.....9.
Glasgow.....hundred.
Edinburgh...thousand.

Dumb words, or "*nulls*":

Anna.
Captain.
Charles.
Daniel.
Jane.
Jones.
Lieutenant.
Thomas.
William.

NUMBER-CIPHER.

France..... ...Two.
Italy..... .....Three.
Greece.....Four.
England.....Five.
One.....Telegraphic credit.
Two..... .....Will deposit.
Three.....Supply or provide.
Four.....Have you arranged or deposited.
Five.....Will send, or remit.
Seven.....Draw, or draft.
Nine.....Bank.
Ten .....Dollars.
Eleven.....Thousand.
Twelve.....Hundred.
Thirteen.....Necessary.
Sixteen .....Canvassing Board.
Nineteen.....Received.
Twenty.....Agree, agreed, agreement.
Twenty-one.. ..Telegraph.
Twenty-four....Vote.
Twenty-seven..J. F. Coyle.
Thirty..... ....Republicans.
Thirty-two .....Canvassing.
Thirty-four.....G. P. Raney.
Thirty-five.....Requirements.
Thirty-seven....Member.
Forty.....Expenses.
Forty-one .....Paid, or protected.
Forty-six .....Prompt.

THE FLORIDA TELEGRAMS.

The Operations of Manton Marble and C. W. Woolley.

BUYING THE BOARD.

Traces of money payment are darkly visible.—[Manton Marble. *Letter on "The Electoral Commission," August*, 1878.

Offering to the highest bidder the sacred muniments of the Presidential title.—[Manton Marble.

An ague-smitten Pariah . . . betrayed his capacity for crime by attempting to hide the true.—[Manton Marble.

It is anybody's secret that throughout the month while this groundwork and primary part of the conspiracy was heaping up and cementing in debauchment and dishonor, the certificates of these three State Canvassing Boards were for sale. Two were actually purchased. They were bought by promises of office, or by money, or by both.—[Manton Marble.

Any one of the venal crew could deliver what he deemed a conclusive title to the Presidency. But it was not there and thus that Mr. Tilden sought to compass the defeat of the Republican conspiracy. Whatever the wish, or the less absolute integrity or the more customary morals, of any devoted adherent, no such transaction would he consent to nor connive at, nor permit.—[Manton Marble.

The true history of the contest for the electoral votes of Florida in 1876 is told for the first time in the cipher dispatches of the Democratic managers in that State to and from Gramercy Park, New-York. The translations of these dispatches show that the confidential agents of Mr. Tilden in that State were Manton Marble, C. W. Woolley and John F. Coyle; that these agents went to Tallahassee with prearranged ciphers for communication with the residence of Mr. Tilden; that they first labored by lawful means to secure for him the votes of that State, and failed therein because the official returns gave a majority for Mr. Hayes. Cipher dispatches regarding the bribery of a member of the Canvassing Board then passed between Mr. Tilden's residence and his confidential agents in Tallahassee. One proposition to pay $200,000 for a member was held too high, because another dispatch from a different agent promised a cheaper bargain. Then by both agents separate propositions were sent in separate ciphers, to buy a member for $50,000. The reply from Gramercy Park was, "Proposition accepted if done only once," and the two agents were separately ordered to consult with each other in haste. It does not clearly appear that the goods would have been delivered. Four words were dropped from the dispatch authorizing the

purchase, thus making it unintelligible. It was after some delay repeated from Gramercy Park in full and intelligible form, but arrived too late, and the visiting statesmen so reported to Gramercy Park.

I.

DISCOVERING THE SITUATION.

On Wednesday afternoon, November 8, 1876, it became known to capable leaders of both parties that the Presidential election would probably turn on the vote of Florida. In South Carolina Mr. Tilden had fallen far behind the Democratic State ticket. In Louisiana it had been notorious for weeks that the Democrats, by systematic beatings and murders in counties formerly Republican, had rendered it possible for the Returning Board, in accordance with the peculiar law of that State, to throw out returns giving large Democratic majorities. But the four electoral votes of far-off Florida would suffice to secure the election of Mr. Tilden, if, as telegrams from the Democratic Committee in Florida declared, the majority of the popular vote in that State had been for Democratic electors. Not without reason THE TRIBUNE remarked on Thursday morning, the 9th, "Everything seems to hinge upon this State. * * * It is just possible that the election is not over—and we wish Mr. Magone had not suddenly left this city last night." He went to Philadelphia, and there met "Duke Gwinn," the reputed manager of Mr. Tilden's secret campaign, and Senator Kelly, of Oregon, who started for home at once, and whose deeds—are they not recorded in the notorious "Gabble" dispatches, deciphered by THE TRIBUNE?

Florida had been bullied and bribed, "bulldozed" and terrorized, through a long and fierce campaign, until even the most hopeful Republicans had almost lost confidence that their scattered friends in that State, mainly colored citizens, could stand up against the assault. On the day of election, Republican judges and clerks were driven from the polls by force, the boxes were stuffed with fraudulent Democratic votes, and in at least one precinct were afterward seized and burned, to make sure that the fraud should not be disclosed. Jackson County, which had 700 white and 1,169 colored citizens, and had given nearly 800 Republican majority in 1868, and nearly 400 in 1874, was thus made to return a Democratic majority of 106. Proofs of these and many other frauds were produced before the Canvassing Board, and afterwards before Congressional Committees. And yet the staunch Republicans of that State had so well resisted bribery, fraud and force that, when the returns began to come in, the Democratic managers found that they had been beaten. At once they set out to steal the State by fraudulent returns, and, imitating the skill of the practised pickpocket, began to cry out in public dispatches that "the Radicals *intend* fraud." Appeals for "money" and "material aid," professedly to resist these "intended" frauds, but really to secure fraudulent returns for Mr. Tilden, went from Florida on the 9th to "Duke Gwinn" at Philadelphia, and to the National Democratic headquarters at New-York, accompanied with assertions that "the State had gone for Tilden by at least 1,600 majority." No doubt Democrats at the North believed this assertion at first, but it is certain that some of the Democratic managers in Florida knew that it was false from the start. They needed money, however, and the following dispatches show how they obtained it:

[1.]

TALLAHASSEE, Nov. 9, 1876.

To GWINN, *Philadelphia:*

We need money to resist Radical pranks. State is for Tilden. A. L. RANDOLPH.

[2.]

JACKSONVILLE, Nov. 9.

RANEY & BLOXHAM:

We will attend to everything east and north of Suwannee. You take middle and west in hand. Expense will be paid. Draw on Payne if you need money. J. J. DANIELS.

[3.]

TALLAHASSEE, Nov. 9, 1876.

To A. S. HEWITT, *Everett House, New-York:*

Our State has gone for Tilden and Democratic State ticket by at least 1,600. We learn that W. E. Chandler has left Washington for this place. Radicals intend fraud. We need material aid to check them. Can we get it? GEO. P. RANEY, Of State Ex. Com.

[4.]

Nov. 9, 1876.

A. S. HEWITT, *Everett House, New-York:*

Send a good man here to represent your committee, with an understood cipher.

W. D. BLOXHAM. GEO. P. RANEY, for State Com.

[5.]

NEW-YORK, Nov. 9.

W. D. BLOXHAM, GEO. P. RANEY.

Telegram rec'd. He has gone on. ABRAM S. HEWITT.

On the night of the 9th, John F. Coyle, a notorious lobbyist of Washington, who had been rendering "invaluable services" for Tilden in North Carolina, started southward.

[6.]

RALEIGH, N. C., Nov. 11, '76.

HENRY HAVEMEYER, 15 *West* 17*th-st., N. Y.*

Met this here safe Weldon noon Rome arrived well not things have at look althongh of on Fox Webster Ed give me Thomas instructions me particulars yet with to-night and came full seen train Brooklyn. MAX.

The cipher is now "understood" by others besides those who used it. By applying Keys III. (for the first 15 words), and VI. (for the last 20 words), the following translation will be obtained:

[Translation.]

Arrived safe. Met Rome at Weldon this noon. Things look well here, althongh have not yet seen Fox. Ed. Webster, of Brooklyn, came on train with

me. Give me to-night full particulars and instructions. Thomas. COYLE.

The fact that "Max" is John F. Coyle is proved by the following telegrams, and by many others presently to be given :

[7.]

WELDON, N. C., Nov. 2, 1876.

Colonel W. T. PELTON, *Everett House, N. Y.:*

Just discovered frauds. Our tickets are printed wrong. Have ordered new tickets all over the State. I go to Raleigh next train. Such a fraud may have been perpetrated in other States. Warn our friends everywhere. MAX.

[8.]

NEW-YORK, Nov. 2, '76.

JOHN F. COYLE, *Raleigh, N. C.:*

Telegraph me nature of the frauds.

W. T. PELTON.

Dispatches from Coyle to Havemeyer, throughout the telegraphic correspondence, were often answered by Colonel W. T. Pelton, and were obviously intended for him and for Mr. Tilden, though sent to a trusted friend and near neighbor to avert suspicion. In other unimportant dispatches to Mr. Havemeyer, Coyle chronicles his progress from Weldon, Wilmington, Flemington and Charleston. In one from Raleigh, just before starting, he says to Havemeyer, "Barnum should go to Louisiana with Senators, and also Fox: I know it's the thing to do." Thus early, the experienced Coyle had apprehended what sort of "mule-buyers," and what "invaluable services" Gramercy Park would need at the South. For himself, he proceeded to business the very day he arrived at Jacksonville, as follows :

[9.]

JACKSONVILLE, Nov. 13.

HENRY HAVEMEYER, 15 *West 17th-st., N. Y.*

Just arrived ; had no communication with that party. Will telegraph fully every day. MAX.

[10.]

JACKSONVILLE, Fla., Nov. 13.

[*To same.*]

In nine one plyne of twelve ten thirty hold Italy sixteen thirteen eleven information will eight that three England first and go immediately seven twenty afternoon twenty situation one to-morrow. Sent two Tallahassee seven twenty four has meeting to thirty. MAX.

[Translation.]

Necessary supply telegraphic credit of Payne in First eight Bank five thousand three hundred dollars. Information that Board will hold canvassing meeting immediately. Coyle and Raney go to Tallahassee to-morrow afternoon. Coyle has sent dispatch situation. COYLE.

To translate this dispatch, the words must first be transposed by Key VI., repeated, and the numerals afterward interpreted. The Payne intended was James H. Payne, President Florida Savings Bank of Jacksonville, and Treasurer of the Democratic State Committee, but in transmission the word was turned into "plyne," and Mr. Havemeyer (or Colonel Pelton) could not understand it, as the following shows :

[11.]

NEW-YORK, Nov. 14.

JOHN F. COYLE, or G. P. RANEY :

On what one six cant have seven and frequently uncertain twenty twenty seven forty be and whom name made to be advise one nine fifty.

H. H.

[Translation.]

Have telegram. Name uncertain, telegraphic credit whom to be made and what bank. Cant Coyle on fifty. Advise frequently and be prompt.

The transposition key is No. VII. The numeral 50, being not elsewhere used, may refer to any bank or person in New-York, the obvious meaning being, "Cannot Coyle draw on" some person. But Coyle and Raney had not arrived, and when they reached Tallahassee they found the following, of which two words are lost :

[12.]

NEW-YORK, Nov. 15.

JNO. F. COYLE, or G. P. RANEY :

Report forty —— captain one twenty twenty who as you to one eight nine —— stated two for Brown thirty by five waiting twenty thirty. H.

(Use Transposition Key VII.)

[Translation.]

Telegram waiting for you. Forty two thirty —— Brown who —— telegraph to twenty eight. Report requirements as stated by nine Captain.

[13.]

Nov. 14.

HENRY HAVEMEYER, *esq.*, No. 15 *West 17th-st., N. Y.*:

Am en route to Tallahassee ; reach there to-morrow afternoon. FOX.

It will appear hereafter that "Fox" was C. W. Woolley, of Cincinnati, who, leaving Louisiana, where he had been for some days engaged, sought in Florida a better field for the exercise of his peculiar gifts. But the long array of experienced vote-dealers would have been like an army without a general, in the opinion of at least one man, had not Mr. Manton Marble also arrived to take command on the 14th or 15th. His doings and first report now appear:

[14.]

TALLAHASSEE, Nov. 16.

Colonel PELTON, 15 *Gramercy Park, N. Y.:*

Use hundred and forty cipher all to there advice some our must everything cordially necessary one coming remain our head received was absolutely driving no probably month was result this business to majority being evidence will truth but afoot Democratic establishing be that distances contriving but unquestionable clear nothing Democrats slow well followed preserve now be returns doubtless to may enormous claim county first board wrongly travel to be will move may canvassing purge and will our difficult Governor canvasser received Democrat three egregious action require returns able county ot canvassing of already fraud one where state board being officers Republican with the immediate beginning legal other Georgia helpful very Governor while need Brown help questions counsel Sellers the arising no in we possible best also and Saltonstall remain can he Moses along and here on general called on army road to-day officers attorney Governor. [No sig.]

(Use Transposition Key VII. four times, and afterward Key V. twice).

[Translation.]

Use hundred and forty cipher. Our coming was absolutely necessary. There was no head, driving everything to result. Some one must remain all this month. Cordially received; probably our advice will be followed. Clear Democratic majority unquestionable. Democrats contriving nothing but to preserve evidence establishing truth. That business now well afoot, but slow, distances being enormous, travel difficult. Canvassing Board doubtless may and will purge county returns. Governor may wrongly claim to be canvasser. Our first

move will be to require of the board of three State officers, one being able Democrat, immediate action, canvassing returns already received, beginning with county where Republican fraud egregious. Governor Brown, Georgia, very helpful. Sellers the best possible counsel in legal questions arising. We need no other help while he and Saltonstall can remain. Called on Governor, Attorney-General to-day; also on army officers along road and here.

MARBLE.

Undoubtedly Mr. Marble was one of those who really believed at first the assertions of local managers that there was a clear Democratic majority, and that "the Radicals" were "infernal scoundrels." Until about the 21st of November, it is charitable to suppose that some trace of this belief remained in his mind. During this first stage in the history of the struggle in Florida, the main effort of the Democratic managers was to obtain full proofs to submit to the Board, and Mr. Marble, believing that the board composed of three State officers would act honestly, had little idea of the proofs of Democratic fraud which the Republicans were accumulating. At that time he did not know, probably, that the local managers were holding back returns from some of the important Democratic counties for a sinister purpose. Meanwhile, Coyle was drawing money for expenses, and Woolley, detained somewhere, had not yet arrived. The accuracy of the translations of cipher dispatches can be abundantly illustrated by quotations from news dispatches published at that time, and it is important to note this verification of the keys used, because they also decipher subsequent dispatches of a very different character. The following telegrams were sent:

[15.]

TALLAHASSEE, Nov. 17.

Colonel PELTON, 15 *Gramercy Park, N. Y.*:

Truth board frauds our contrived no purge slowly Democratic will official prove friends only returns canvassing the arrive to seeking committed move law power gives returns expedite our the will by board and our published first is opinion on friend to-day will returns received already canvassing authority [—] of usurp our by this will greatest Governor petition risk demanded he have course and certificate transmit to lieutenant for canvass Moses law is of Republican and that both precedent there result. [No signature.]

(Use Key V. four times.)

[Translation.]

No Democratic frauds contrived; our friends only seeking to prove the truth. Official returns arrive slowly. Canvassing board will purge returns. The law gives power, and our friend on Board is committed by published opinion. Our first move will expedite canvassing of returns already received. This will be demanded by petition to-day. Our greatest risk [is] Governor will usurp authority to canvass and transmit certificate of Republican result. There is both law and precedent for that course. MARBLE. LIEUTENANT.

The "friend on board," was Attorney-General Cocke, who had so publicly proclaimed his opinion and purpose that objection was made to his acting on the board, at its first meeting.

[16.]

TALLAHASSEE, Nov. 18.

HENRY HAVEMEYER, *No. 15 West 17th-st., N. Y.*:

Ten Jacksonville Jacksonville it requested eleven place J have one Payne England notify twelve from one. If four immediately Daniels as not J yon Italy.

W. CALL,
J. J. DANIEL.
MAX.

(Use Key VIII.)

[Translation.]

Have you provided five thousand three hundred dollars telegraphic credit Payne, as requested from Jacksonville? If you have not, place it telegraphic credit J. J. Daniel, Jacksonville. Notify immediately.

[17.]

TALLAHASSEE, Nov. 18.

HENRY HAVEMEYER, *esq., No. 15 West 17th-st., N. Y.*:

Our particulars us England twenty slowly for for twenty twelve say progress some surely one friends seven we news send Moses three Moses upon but. MAX.

(Use Key VIII.)

[Translation.]

We progress slowly, but surely, our friends say. Marble telegraphs particulars. Draw upon twenty three for five hundred for Marble. Send us some news. COYLE.

[18.]

TALLAHASSEE, Nov. 19.

Col. PELTON, 15 *Gramercy Park:*

To Russia repeating twenty-five cipher only returns demand our circuit know Herald what shall we of from will counties to Monday shall work news we hitherto apply Monday have to received London canvassing hope Louis also judge command from Emmons some for from to for restraining cooking for fairness Louis order opinion begin whose returns to Louis to we opinion us that Brown Louis soon canvasses notice ne thinks cooked promise to obtained London of yesterday publish very not give means meanwhile to 1 are returns and of rather London Greece Secretary declare State returns game because judge for is their all convening result intercept delays under voice ground declare that not has her to on he in authority and may canvass that Louis lose Florida returns statute then and superseded has integrity proceeding Kasson will I him his Choate Barlow fool promptly he soon estimate Chandler upon see of O'Conors leaves for called they telegraphed visits Barlow we advised and Noyes wasted to shall Monday others are three otherwise proffer continue mean after coöperation to unless comptroller coming Robertson on Moses.

(Use Key VII. seven times, beginning to number after the word "only.")

[Translation.]

To Tilden, repeating twenty five cipher only. *Herald* will have news of our work hitherto Monday. We shall demand to know from what counties returns received. Monday we shall apply to Circuit Judge, from whose fairness some hope for order restraining Governor from canvassing returns. Also for command to Board to begin. Emmons cooking opinion for Governor that he, not Board, canvasses. We obtained yesterday promise of Governor to give us notice. Brown thinks Governor means very soon to publish cooked opinion and declare result for Hayes. I judge their game is rather to intercept returns. Secretary of State meanwhile delays convening Board because all returns are not in. Then Governor, on ground that Florida may lose her voice, and that he has authority under superseded statute to canvass returns and declare. I promptly called see Barlow, proceeding upon O'Conor's estimate of his integrity. They will fool him. He has telegraphed for Choate. Chandler leaves soon. Kasson, Noyes are coming after Monday. We mean to proffer coöperation to Barlow, Robertson and others. Wasted three visits on Controller. Shall continue unless otherwise advised. MARBLE.

[19.]

NEW-YORK, Nov. 19.

MANTON MARBLE:

Or must dispatch B. for not received trust D Thomas that you Charles sends for. W.

(Use Key IV.)

[Translation.]

Dispatch received. You must not trust B. or that for D. sends for. Thomas Charles. W.

[20.]

TALLAHASSEE, Nov. 19.

Col. PELTON, 15 *Gramercy Park:*

Have us making of honesty purposed willingness to-day only his trusted infernal B trout lesome nobody writes scoundrels France these to whether and in suggestions writing to result should receive declare France as we wish or ascertain to London make to belief went for electors presidential of over to-day vote out in Chandler this their France emissaries professes authority undoubtedly game shall in to local cook state Moses fire probably night I France backing for not bell certificate ring in alterations.

(Use Key V.)

[Translation.]

Purposed only making honesty of B. (Barlow) troublesome to these infernal scoundrels. Have trusted nobody. Governor to-day writes us his willingness to receive in writing suggestions we wish to make as to whether Governor or Board should ascertain and declare result of vote for Presidential electors. This their game undoubtedly. Chandler professes belief in Governor's authority. To-day emissaries went out over State, probably to cook local backing for alterations in Governor's certificates. Shall I not ring fire-bell in night?

MARBLE.

As an illustration of the correction of the translation, see the following letter, quoted in the affidavit of Governor Stearns, submitted to Judge White five days after:

"S. PASCO, *Esq.*

"SIR: Referring to the inquiries made of me by you and other gentlemen last evening, I have to say that I shall be very happy to receive from you in writing any suggestions you may desire to make as to the question whether the Governor or the State Canvassing Board should ascertain and declare the result of the vote for Presidential electors. M. L. STEARNS."

It will be seen that Mr. Marble, as translated by THE TRIBUNE keys, quotes the Governor's exact words.

[21.]

Prob. Nov. 19.

HENRY HAVEMEYER, *esq., No.* 15 *West* 17*th-st., N. Y.*

Bayne useful once P very here may Lawrence at concurs if Smith be sent Perry come of necessity him let carriage from come will take if in and there he way answer the Thomasville by MAX.

(Use Keys III. and VI.)

[Translation.]

Lawrence P. Bayne may be very useful here if sent at once. Perry Smith concurs in the necessity. Let him come by way of Thomasville, and take carriage from there. Answer if he will come.

COYLE.

[22.]

NEW-YORK, Nov. 20.

To MANTON MARBLE, *Tallahassee:*

That be it Green Cole judge is Ashbel A Thomas advised Charles H. see. DENMARK.

(Use Key IV.)

[Translation.]

MANTON MARBLE:

It is advised by Judge Ashbel Green that you see A. H. Cole, Thomas Charles. PELTON.

[23.]

Nov. 21, 1876.

To Colonel PELTON, 15 *Gramercy Park, N. Y.:*

Try to have the documents which the Associated Press will soon receive to-night sent over the country by Western, New-England and other agents. Pray stop sending any more people here. They delay business, and take up more time than I can possibly spare in utterly needless consultation and palaver. Every new one needs the education and local knowledge I have been a week in acquiring. The business is all perfectly in hand, and every point guarded. Heartily glad to see Perry Smith and Gibson, of course, who arrived to-day. Who is Parris? Judge Robertson returns home to-morrow. Everything looks well. MANTON MARBLE.

[24.]

TALLAHASSEE, Nov. 21.

HENRY HAVEMEYER, *No.* 15 *West* 17*th-st., N. Y.:*

One proceedings culminating twenty legal W tells Moses matters by arrived reinforced of yesterday Radicals seven twelve Wallace others and it to distance to gave agents Noyes hall Drew sent France for Kasson and for MAX.

(Use Keys III. and VI.)

[Translation.]

Marble's dispatch tells of legal proceedings. Woolley arrived yesterday. Matters culminating. Radicals reinforced by Noyes, Kasson, Wallace and others. Drew for two hundred and a half. Gave it to Drew for agents sent to distance. COYLE.

This draft of Mr. Coyle's on "Twenty-three" was not paid, and he telegraphed the next day to Colonel Pelton direct:

[25.]

TALLAHASSEE, Nov. 22.

Colonel W. T. PELTON, *No.* 59 *Liberty-st., N. York:*

Caused is twelve William you am judge three Thomas France may notified embarrassment Daniel on Charles and for twenty half Jane immediately draft protested correct. MAX.

(Use Key VII.)

[Translation.]

Am notified draft for two hundred and a half on twenty three is protested. You may judge embarrassment caused. Correct immediately. Thomas Charles Jane Daniel William. COYLE.

Perry Smith added his remonstrances; Mr. Coyle's credit at headquarters being perhaps limited:

[26.]

TALLAHASSEE, Nov. 23.

W. T. PELTON, *Everett House, N. Y.*

Why not answer Max dispatch yesterday. Important. Who is Parris that presents himself here without credentials? P. H. SMITH.

"Parris" was Mr. E. L. Parris, a New-York lawyer, who had just arrived to take a share in the labors of the campaign, and whom all the conspirators seemed at first inclined to distrust:

[27.]

TALLAHASSEE, Nov. 22.

HENRY HAVEMEYER, *No.* 15 *West* 17*th-st., N. Y.:*

With be to relations intimate cannot more otherwise consent much Moses act with strange in can cheerfully command can Parisians Florida Charles can probably useful Jane discouraging in Anna critical at be more though Fox rate not any there useful.

(Use Key V., twice.)

[Translation.]

Cannot consent to intimate relations with strange Parisians Can act cheerfully with Marble in command; otherwise can be much more useful in ———. Probably can be more used there at any rate. Florida critical, though not discouraging. Fox (Woolley). Charles Anna Jane.

[28.]

NEW-YORK, Nov. 23.

JOHN F. COYLE, *Tallahassee:*

One reliable—is most—of Parris should Jane implicit him and reliance accorded. H.

(Use Key III.)

[Translation.]

Parris is one of (us) and most reliable. Implicit reliance should (be) accorded him. Jane.

[29.]

NEW-YORK, Nov. 23.

P. H. SMITH, *Tallahassee:*

Telegram received. Party you ask about entirely reliable; a good lawyer and useful counsellor.

W. T. P.

[30.]

NEW-YORK, Nov. 23.

C. W. WOOLLEY, *Tallahassee:*

Refer can fetch as reliable the him me safe with is here if you you to talk Warsaw possible lose perfectly with don't as party Europe here he cards to is of and old trustworthy pointed hold professes from me you as to Jane what out shuffler do an party. THREE.

(Use Key VIII., twice.)

[Translation.]

Telegram here. The party you refer to is perfectly reliable. You can talk as safe with him as with me. Don't lose fetch if possible to hold. Is party from Louisiana you pointed out to me here as an old shuffler of cards trustworthy, and do what he professes? Jane.

[31.]

TALLAHASSEE, Nov. 21.

Colonel PELTON, *No.* 15 *Gramercy Park:*

I'se Hudson times Danube cipher knowledge counties past not belief local copies twenty imbecility certified of get till yesterday whole Schuylkill full situation Moses could accurately it Glasgow Schuylkill twenty give not seventeen Potomac would Mississippi give Havana Syracuse Glasgow Syracuse estimated and counties twelve county refuse much throw to strain to scoundrels London wholly Ithaca Potomac ont Moselle Rochester would Manatee only thirty Glasgow too and Moselle nineteen Glasgow throw to sent out Hay narrow margin Havana Rochester Moses Thompson is yesterday county Alachua to others pertect proofs our Alachua Moselle there to into fortify to to-day Moses us and Manatee thoroughly jurist dispatched working Louisiana Moses not must other came regretting counties Wilkinson Fox been name Cole arrived leaving act yesterday arrived already county questions working arrives Biddle Sunday of communicated is power [one word dropped] for today Sellers purpose Barlow neighboring heretofore yesterday went suspend will never denounce will France downright unless but be Florida rope exercise may in London to Senate France, give to Moses fight close is fair no earliest unquestionably needs wise best and hard it stages possible at do will till and except powers full further Moses perfectly assistance discreet withdrawn for which will is trustworthy granted some taken be. [No sig.]

(Use Key V. ten times.)

[Translation.]

Use four times five (i. e., 20-word) cipher. Local imbecility past belief. Not till yesterday could Marble get full knowledge of whole situation. Twenty-seven counties, certified copies, give six hundred twenty-seven Republican majority. Twelve counties give estimated accurately eight hundred and seventeen majority. It would not strain Board much to throw out two hundred thirty-six Manatee County Democratic votes, only scoundrels would refuse wholly to throw out two hundred nineteen Republican votes Alachua County. Margin is too narrow. Marble yesterday sent Thompson and Hay to Alachua to perfect our proofs. To-day Marble dispatched jurist to Manatee to fortify us thoroughly there, and others into two other counties Marble must not name. Cole already arrived been act (ively) working. Fox arrived yesterday, regretting leaving Louisiana. Wilkinson came Sunday, is working. Biddle arrives to-day. Sellers went yesterday for neighboring county, [for] purpose heretofore communicated. Barlow questions power of Governor, but never will denounce exercise; may give Governor rope to suspend Florida in Senate. Unless Board will be downright fair, unquestionably fight is close and hard. Will do best possible to win it at earliest stages. Marble needs no further assistance, except full powers, which will be taken for granted till withdrawn. Is Rome perfectly trustworthy and discreet? MARBLE.

[32.]

TALLAHASSEE, Nov. 21.

Col. PELTON, 15 *Gramercy Park:*

All France next Biddle after man on restraint mentioned command he just in last went upon brought for has dispatch France Wednesday lost returning life London Moses associated nearly morning shall have now better publish press got documents we fight.

(Use Key V.)

[Translation.]

Man mentioned next after Biddle in last dispatch has just brought all he went for, restraint upon Governor, command on Board. Nearly lost life returning; now better fight; we have got Governor. Shall publish documents associated press Wednesday morning. MARBLE.

In the exact correspondence of the events here narrated, and results claimed by each party, with news dispatches published at the time, will be found conclusive proof of the correctness not only of the keys, but of the interpretations given to cipher words. Mr. Sellers, for example, did go to the adjoining county, Gadsden, to the residence of Judge White, at Quincy, and obtained on the 20th temporary writs of injunction forbidding the counting of votes by the Governor, and mandamus requiring the Board to proceed to canvass, as the following states:

[33.]

TALLAHASSEE, Nov. 21.

General J. B. GORDON, *Columbia, S. C.:*

Thanks; yes, will use if expedient. Stearns contemplates usurping canvassing under old superseded statute, and winning by cooked certificates. I expose him North to-day, and that is not all. Good and sufficient force here now, well organized. Tell Randolph that job he should have let Fox manage has been too engrossing night and day for me to telegraph. Will exchange news hereafter. We shall put Uncle Sammy through, and end the reign of thieves. MANTON MARBLE.

II.

MANIPULATING RETURNS.

Up to about November 22 it may have been possible for Mr. Marble and other visiting Democrats to believe the assertion that Florida had voted for Mr. Tilden. But it must have been observed by the 22d that the local managers were holding back heavy Democratic returns, while trying, even by mandamus of a circuit court, to compel the Board to open other returns before all had been received, and thus enable the Democrats to ascertain exactly

what majorities they had to manufacture. For some days, Mr. W. E. Chandler's dispatches to THE TRIBUNE had been earnestly demanding the production of returns from Polk, Brevard and Lafayette counties, which finally gave 750 Democratic majority. From this time, *not a line was sent by Mr. Marble, even in his most secret ciphers,* or by any other Democratic operator in Florida, as far as we can learn, implying a belief that the Democrats had any right to the vote of the State; the sole question was whether they could get it, right or no right. For some days, they clung to the plan of holding back and altering returns, but Republican tactics defeated that game. Meanwhile, the suggestion in dispatch No. 30, from New-York, about "an old shuffler of cards," indicated the drift of thought in that quarter, and Mr. Woolley began to speak his mind through Mr. Marble, thus:

[34.]

TALLAHASSEE, Nov. 22.

Colonel PELTON, *No.* 15 *Gramercy Park:*

Or in let Moses for Fox either immediately do say contingencies asks here answer got you forces to together be not why me read Louisiana.

(Use Key VII.)

[Translation.]

Woolley asks me to say, Let forces be got together immediately in read (iness) for contingencies either here or Louisiana. Why do you not answer?

MARBLE.

What sort of "forces" did Mr. Woolley want to have held in readiness? Armed forces? Had the suggestion come from Mr. Watterson, of Kentucky, "between the sherry and the champagne," that might have been the meaning. But Mr. Woolley is not a man of blood. He is a man of business. The "forces" which he understands how to use can be carried in the vest pocket. As yet, however, there was some reliance on the returns, and Coyle telegraphed on Saturday, the 25th, as follows:

[35.]

TALLAHASSEE, Nov. 25.

HENRY HAVEMEYER, *esq., No.* 15 *West* 17*th-st., N. Y.*

Ten party for twelve England count on despondent thirty to friends seven commences Monday confident of our to-day sixteen forty. MAX.

(Use Key VI.)

[Translation.]

Draw to-day for five hundred dollars expenses of party. Board commences to count on Monday. Our friends confident: Republicans despondent.

Mr. Coyle, however, was not in the full confidence of either his associates in Florida or his employers in New-York. The advice from Woolley and Marble about "getting forces together" had been understood. Mr. Smith M. Weed, just returned to New-York from an unsuccessful expedition to South Carolina, where he tried to buy the Returning Board, assumed the congenial duty of replying to this recommendation, and his telegram was addressed to the E. L. Parris mentioned in the recent inquiries from Tallahassee. The medium of communication was the "Dictionary Cipher," which Mr. Parris alone of the Florida agents seems to have possessed; and the key is applied by turning back one page. This mode of translation converts the signature "Whip" into "Weed."

[36.]

NEW-YORK, Nov. 24.

E. D. PARRIS, *Tallahassee:*

Recognize forewarning to peruse Socinian and admeasurement us here ear antipode of boon beehive prop signature interesting auditory appertain couple antiphon. WHIP.

[Translation.]

Read following to Peri [Perry] Smith, and acquaint us here. Cannot antagonism of Board be prevented. Should *instanter,* AT ANY COST. Answer. WEED.

Mr. Woolley was not deceived about the situation:

[37.]

TALLAHASSE, Nov. 26.

HENRY HAVEMEYER, *No.* 15 *West* 17*-st., N. Y.*

Try Lieutenant weather shall here very Charles useful bad captain to storm I stay be elsewhere or more the through. FOX.

(Use Key V.)

[Translation.]

Very bad weather here. Shall I stay through the storm, or try to be more useful elsewhere, Lieutenant Captain Charles. WOOLLEY.

Apparently Mr. Woolley had expressed his view of the situation so freely to other Democratic workers in Florida that Mr. Marble became unhappy. It was the plan of Moses to put on airs of righteousness as long as possible, and, even if at the end votes must be bought, to buy them as a pious duty. Mr. Woolley, however, had no taste for thin self-deceptions, and the two did not wholly agree, but Gramercy Park assumed full responsibility for Mr. Woolley, and told him to stay, for reasons which Mr. Marble finally came to understand fully:

[38.]

TALLAHASSEE. Nov. 27.

Colonel PELTON, 15 *Gramercy Park.*

You to by then telegrams you advise neglecting person here that and counsels to causing result and divided trust one imperilling answer find Do will one authority in trust way I to least nobody's him and him possibly transfer calendar at two week to best for stand my Parris Rome copies here now about be returns always certified should Glasgow recalled Fox same useless Havana on upon claim ditto detectives Syracuse needless and indiscreet to impediment begun Russia as man decline in and with Louisiana so sessions nobody all trusted nuisance I by aforesaid concurs a commit Smith Moses.

(Use Key VII., four times.)

[Translation.]

You are imperilling result here by causing divided counsels and neglecting to answer telegrams. I advise that you find one person to trust and then trust him for at least one calendar week, possibly two. I will stand in nobody's way, and do my best to transfer to him authority. About 100 majority on certified copies; Republicans claim same upon returns. Rome needless now, should be recalled. Parris and detectives always useless, ditto Woolley here as (in) Louisiana a nuisance and impediment, trusted by nobody. *I decline to commit Tilden with man so indiscreet.* Smith concurs in all aforesaid. Session begun. MARBLE.

It will be observed that Mr. Marble here confesses that the pretensions of local Democrats of "1,600 majority for Tilden" have dwindled to "about 100 majority on certified copies," and has begun to think of operations in regard to which he "declines to commit Tilden" with any indiscreet man. How could Mr. Tilden be "committed" dan-

gerously in connection with honest and lawful efforts?

On the same day Mr. Marble began to stir himself to capture a vote in Oregon, apparently unaware that operations had already been started in that State, by direct orders from New-York.

[39.]

Hon. LAFAYETTE F. GLOVER, *Portland (or elsewhere), Oregon:*

It is respectfully suggested that you refrain from the issue of any certificate in favor of an elector alleged to have been chosen November 7th, who on that day was ineligible to that office, until you shall have been advised thereon. *Reply* at my expense, *if you are unable to do this.*

MANTON MARBLE.

[40.]

TALLAHASSEE, Nov. 27.

GEORGE W. SMITH, 15 *Gramercy Park, New-York:*

Governor suggested it to from from has here to issuing of been certificate refrain Oregon telegraph Warsaw of elector ineligible in Spain see favor to him not until advised O'Conor's my obtain opinion why thereon.

(Use Keys IV. and V.)

[Translation.]

It has been suggested from here to Governor of Oregon to refrain from issuing certificate in favor of ineligible elector until advised thereon. Why not obtain telegraph him O'Conor's opinion? See my dispatch to Spain. M.

[41.]

TALLAHASSEE, Nov. 28.

To Colonel PELTON, 15 *Gramercy Park, N. Y.:*

Please yourself about economies suggested. Coyle exceedingly useful hitherto. You did not answer my inquiry about Paris, and only mention him at this late date. *That promotes unity of action, I suppose.* Mention names of Florida friends when you wish to learn how much weight their several requests deserve. Fox impedes daily. It's no relief that you assume responsibility for difficulties he makes. Don't fail to read message to Smith, fifteen and twenty cipher. M. M.

On the 28th day of November, the Democratic operators entered upon the third and final stage of their political "Rake's Progress." They were astounded when the returns were opened that day to find that, instead of the majority of 93 which fraudulent returns had been made to give them, they were beaten by 42 majority on the face of the returns. From Baker County, which they had counted 94 majority for Tilden, an official return gave 41 majority for Hayes. In order to overthrow that return, they would be compelled to affirm the power of a Republican Board to correct errors and frauds in the county returns, and then all the rascality of the returns from heavy Democratic counties like Manatee and Monroe would be exposed. In the end, the board did correct the Republican return from Baker, and gave the Democrats 136 votes more than the official return had given, but they also corrected the Democratic returns from Manatee and Monroe, cutting down the Democratic vote by 577. As soon as it was known that the board must go behind the returns, or declare the State for Hayes, consternation reigned among the Democratic schemers gathered in that dingy room in a dilapidated State House at Tallahassee. There were present, say press dispatches of that date, besides Democrats of Florida, the following from abroad, every one of whom has been named in THE TRIBUNE'S translated ciphers: Manton Marble, Paris, G. W. Biddle, D. W. Sellers, Sam G. Thompson, and Malcolm Hay, of Pennsylvania; C. W. Woolley, of Ohio; Levorett Saltonstall, of Massachusetts; John F. Coyle, of Washington; Perry W. Smith, of Chicago; Charles Gibson, of St. Louis, and ex-Governor J. E. Brown, of Georgia. Any examination of the returns would inevitably uncover and defeat the Democratic frauds, if the members of the Board were honest. Then it was that Mr. Marble and Mr. Woolley proceeded to business.

III.

BUYING A VOTE.

The earliest direct suggestions of bribery appear to be in the dispatches of Woolley and "Whip," Nos. 34 and 36. These were sent before the operators in Florida knew that their manipulations of returns had failed, and no direct replies appear. But only two days after the Board had opened the certificates, and found a majority for Hayes on the face of the returns, Mr. Woolley discovered that the pious and polysyllabic Marble had not only commenced "business," but was getting into the way of the worldly and "indiscreet" Woolley himself. Therefore he telegraphed:

[42.]

TALLAHASSEE, Nov. 30.

HENRY HAVEMEYER, 15 *West 17th-st., N. Y.:*

Fetch Daniel to that see wire Charles private Moses Captain contracts abstain the children this Jane from is Israel of. FOX.

(Use Key V.)

[Translation.]

Wire Moses to see that the children of Israel abstain from fetch contracts. This is private. Jane Daniel Captain Charles. WOOLLEY.

"Fetch" is one of the few words which have not been very satisfactorily translated; it was not even understood by Mr. Woolley's correspondent in New-York. He replied:

[43]

NEW-YORK, Dec. 1.

C. W. WOOLLEY, TALLAHASSEE:

Dont understand; explain. HAVEMEYER.

Mr. Woolley was then kind enough to translate the word "fetch" in the following:

[44.]

TALLAHASSEE, Dec. 1.

HENRY HAVEMEYER, 15 *West 17th-st., N. Y.:*

Making Jane said you to I William enemy privately Daniel propositions Moses last night to Captain from the stop to FOX.

(Use Key V.)

[Translation.]

I privately said to you last night to stop Moses from making propositions to the enemy. Captain Jane Daniel William. WOOLLEY.

Is it to be believed that Mr. Woolley was shocked at the thought of buying up a Republican member of the Canvassing Board? In view of his dispatch about having "forces in readiness for contingencies either here or Louisiana," will anybody believe it? Or did Mr. Woolley really think that his chief

Mr. Tilden, would be shocked? Had he conceived of Mr. Tilden the conception thus expressed by Mr. Marble: "The signal and peculiar mark of that plan was this: his absolute trust in moral forces; his entire faith in the people, their volitions and their power. And why, of all men in the United States, should not he?"

But what is to be said of Mr. Marble's virtue? He transmitted in his cipher Mr. Woolley's request for "forces," and yet, five days afterwards, was chiefly worried because Mr. Woolley was "indiscreet." It was not the dishonor or criminality of such use of "forces" that troubled Mr. Marble, but the impression that Mr. Woolley did not cover his business with enough veneering. Why, then, should Mr. Woolley, the blunt and straightforward trader, want to stop the propositions of Mr. Marble, whose trading was veneered with patriotism and varnished with piety? Because, unfortunately, *Marble and Woolley were bidding against each other for the same vote, and putting up the price*, which Mr. Woolley was "discreet" enough to see did not pay. Exactly what proposition was first transmitted to Gramercy Park by Mr. Marble, or his financial aid, Mr. Coyle, does not appear; some dispatches of the series are missing. But the following show that something very important and strictly financial was proposed:

[45.]

TALLAHASSEE, Dec. 1.

Col. WM. T. PELTON, 59 *Liberty-st., N. Y.:*

Answer Max's dispatch immediately or we will be embarrassed at a critical time. W. CALL.

[46.]

NEW-YORK, Dec. 1.

MANTON MARBLE, *Tallahassee, Fla.:*

Meet supplied consult read may yes able been to but be to to be who Smith with request has Daniel can't telegram your and requirements. P.

(Use Key VII.)

[Translation.]

Yes, to your request, but consult with Daniel who has been supplied and may be able to meet requirements. Telegram to Smith can't be read.

PELTON.

J. J. Daniel, it was shown by dispatch No. 16, was the person through whom telegraphic transfers of money had been arranged November 18.

[47.]

NEW-YORK, Dec. 2.

J. F. COYLE, *Tallahassee:*

Twenty one nineteen unless you have nineteen five again. H.

[Translation.]

Telegram received. Unless you have received will remit again. HAVEMEYER.

Other dispatches, not of great importance, though they illustrate the later events, may best be inserted here:

[48.]

TALLAHASSEE, Dec. 4.

HENRY HAVEMEYER, *esq., No. 15 West 17th-st., N. Y.*

Forty ten twenty Anna will you cover twelve promptly one probably will all Jane and Captain seven immediately Italy Greece Daniel me three which notify. MAX.

Use Key VII.

[Translation.]

You will supply immediately telegraphic credit Coyle seven hundred dollars, which will probably cover all expenses. Notify me promptly. Captain Daniel Jane Anna. COYLE.

[49.]

TALLAHASSEE, Dec. 5.

HENRY HAVEMEYER, *esq., No. 15 West 17th-st., N. Y.:*

Not notify ten Thomas nine, three Moses and this twelve, immediately Greece will place twenty, takes one Italy seven W. its any and what need. MAX.

Use Key VII.

[Translation.]

Supply seven hundred dollars telegraphic credit Woolley and Coyle, and notify what bank immediately. Marble will not need any. This takes its place. Thomas. COYLE.

The Board had opened the returns on Tuesday the 28th of November, had heard evidence on both sides patiently, and was obliged to reach a decision within a few days. From the beginning Attorney-General Cocke had been counted safe by the Democrats. Dr. Cowgill, formerly of Delaware, was a staunch Union man, and Mr. Marble had said it was "wasting" time to call on him. Secretary of State McLin, for twenty-two years a resident of Florida, was once a Confederate, but afterward a Union man, and a Republican editor of reputation as an upright man, but the conspirators needed one vote, and what they tried to do let the secret dispatches show:

[50.]

Certificate required to Moses decision have London hour for Bolivia of just and Edinburgh at Moselle hand a any over Glasgow France rec'd. Russia of

Use Key VII.

[Translation.]

TALLA., Dec. 2.

Colonel PELTON, 15 *Gramercy Park:*

Have just received a proposition to hand over at any hour required Tilden decision of Board and certificate of Governor for 200,000. Marble.

Did Mr. Marble or Mr. Coyle actually receive such a startling proposition? Mr. McLin has sworn that such a proposition was made *to* him, not by him, and there has been an issue of veracity on the matter between him and Mr. Marble, who denies that he had any talk with McLin on the subject. But the question of grave importance is not whether Mr. Marble deceived others or himself, *but what had Gramercy Park to answer.* This:

[51.]

NEW-YORK, Dec. 3.

MANTON MARBLE, *Tallahassee:*

Warsaw here. Bolivia Brazil. (No sig.)

[Translation.]

Dispatch here. Proposition too high. (?)

Mr. Marble was not satisfied with this answer. He went to Mr. E. L. Parris and requested that gentleman to represent that his "plan" must be acted upon immediately. Mr. Parris thereupon seems to have sent the following dispatch in the "Dictionary Cipher." It is not signed, but as Parris was the only man in Florida, so far as can be learned, who used that cipher, there can be no difficulty in determining the authorship. The key is applied by turning back

one page, and the translation thus obtained for the word "match" is Marble.

[52.]

TALLAHASSE, Dec. 4.

HENRY HAVEMEYER, 15 *West 17th-st., N. Y.:*

Scarify secured shear distances settee you advanced to husky heart affectioned with functionary sleeper sauce-box exempt tidewater undertaker match school plinth settee you scarify nascent beehive admonish upon implacable overhung worry underbrush plinth unlandlocked to untransomed. Sixteen twenty-one twenty-three kneel preëminenced your lightning. [No sig.]

[Translation.]

Saturday secured. Several dispatches sent you addressed to house. Have advised with friend. Situation same; everything uncertain. **Marble says plan sent you Saturday must be acted upon immediately;** otherwise unavailing. Plan unknown to undersigned. Sixteen, twenty-one, twenty-three just presented your letter.

What was "secured Saturday"? That day (December 2) was the date of Marble's proposal to purchase the Board for $200,000. Mr. Marble asserts that he transmitted the offer indeed as a matter of news, but that he indignantly repelled it "on the spot," and yet here he urges that it be acted upon immediately. Gramercy Park, however, had reasons not known to Mr. Marble for considering his "Bolivia" decidedly "Brazil," for on the preceding day the following had come from Mr. Woolley:

[53.]

TALLAHASSEE, Dec. 1.

HENRY HAVEMEYER, 15 *West 17th-st., N. Y.*

Sixteen Fetch may make thirteen forty of half of a twelve eleven ten. Can you say two in nine immediately if twenty. **Fox.**

[Translation.]

Board Fetch may make necessary expense of half of a hundred thousand dollars. Can you say will deposit in bank immediately if agreed?

Whatever significance may be given to the word "fetch," which, it will be remembered, Mr. Havemeyer (or Pelton) failed on a former occasion to understand, there can be very little doubt as to the meaning of the proposal. And the reply of Gramercy Park was:

[54.]

2:25 p. m.
NEW-YORK, 1 Dec.

C. W. WOOLLEY, *Tallahassee.*

Twenty one nineteen two ten twenty cannot however seven before twenty four thirty seven nineteen reply forty six. **H.**

[Translation.]

Telegram received. Will deposit dollars agreed; (you) cannot, however, draw before vote member received. Reply promptly.

We have no evidence that Mr. Havemeyer ever sent this damning answer, or that he ever read either the answer or the dispatch to which a reply signed "H." was sent. He received dispatches; it is probable that Gramercy Park read and answered them all. But it is now apparent why the Marble-Coyle $200,000 "Bolivia" was not held good. Probably, Mr. Woolley learned that bargains were going on behind his back, for he telegraphed:

[55.]

TALLAHASSEE, Dec. 2.

HENRY HAVEMEYER, 15 *West 17th-st., N. Y.:*

More in select have have whom some you you in confidence one winning evidently than. **Fox.**

(Use Key IV.)

[Translation.]

Select some one in whom you have more confidence than you evidently have in Woolley.

WOOLLEY.

The reply, signed "W.," might probably as well have been signed W. T. Pelton, and needs careful reading:

[56.]

NEW-YORK, Dec. 3.

C. W. WOOLLEY, *Tallahassee:*

Perfect you what power we could and answer you cannot belief declined all telegraphed do do all application no in and stay private has you have needless other prevent here W.

(Use Key IX.)

[Translation.]

ALL HERE HAVE PERFECT BELIEF IN YOU. We cannot prevent needless. —— NO OTHER has POWER, AND ALL APPLICATION DECLINED. STAY AND DO WHAT YOU TELEGRAPHED YOU COULD DO. PRIVATE. ANSWER. W.

"All here" at Gramercy Park—what does that mean? What was it that Mr. Woolley "telegraphed he could do," which needed not only the secresy of a cipher, but the injunction "Private" within that cipher? Mr. Woolley was private—so private that the following dispatches, covering precisely the same proposition, went to Gramercy Park in two distinct ciphers.

[57.]

TALLAHASSEE, Dec. 3.

Colonel PELTON, 15 *Gramercy Park, N. Y.*

Preventing Moses best Bolivia or from Glasgow vote London documents united Rochester states half giving [one word dropped] **concurrence electors his cast being court either of in received of action for Havana.**

(Use Key X.)

[Translation.]

Proposition received either giving vote of [one?] **Republican of Board, or his concurrence in Court action preventing electors' vote from being cast, for half hundred best United States documents. [For $50,000 in U. S. notes].** **Marble.**

[58.]

TALLAHASSEE, Dec. 4.

HENRY HAVEMEYER, 15 *West 17th-st., N. Y.*

Half twelve may less thirty eleven winning ten additional seven for give lieutenant sixteen Russia. **Fox.**

(Use Key IV., and after transposition translate the numerals in accordance with their meaning, in all other dispatches in the same cipher.)

[Translation.]

May Winning [i. e., Woolley] **give hundred thousand dollars less half for Tilden additional Board member? Lieutenant.** **Woolley.**

There is not much room to doubt what either of

these propositions means. "Hundred thousand dollars less half," means exactly the same as "half hundred best United States documents."

Mr. Marble cannot deny the authorship of the above dispatches signed (within the cipher) "Moses." For it will be found hereafter (see dispatch No. 66) that he said on the 5th of December, in plain English and over his own signature, "Finished yesterday afternoon responsibility (as) Moses." These, however, it may be said, were only propositions. How did Gramercy Park reply? The conspirators waited, devoured with anxiety. To Woolley came only this answer—to his impatient soul how torturing!

[59.]

NEW-YORK, Dec. 4.

Col. C. W. WOOLLEY, *Tallahassee*:

Act divided time ruin him counsels each all important you in Warsaw other of you may see have or conjunction consult him lose will with and coincide you must Israel. [No signature.]

(Use Key IX.)

[Translation.]

See Israel and act in conjunction with him. You must coincide, or you will ruin each other. Have telegraphed him consult you. Time important. Divided councils may lose all.

Mr. Woolley rushed to "Israel," or "Moses," or Marble, but not one word had he received *except the following unintelligible dispatch:*

[60.]

NEW-YORK, Dec. 3.

MANTON MARBLE, *Tallahassee*:

Lima should important in once be concert councils and better if trust you can fox done time him divided act only Bolivia with and consult here. (No signature.)

Mr. Marble could not read this. No one of the conspirators could read it. The day was slipping away, and the Board might decide on the morrow. Mr. Marble telegraphed:

[61.]

TALLAHASSEE, Dec. 3.

Col. PELTON, 15 *Gramercy Park, N. Y.*:

Tell Spain to repeat his message in my cipher. It is unintelligible. MANTON MARBLE.

Meanwhile Mr. Woolley received the following;

[62.]

NEW-YORK, Dec. 4.

Colonel C. W. WOOLLEY, *Tallahassee.*

Given Rochester that have London will not fully advise you use reported so need Lima, Rhine to here if us. W.

(Use Key VI.)

[Translation.]

Reported here that Board have given us one vote. If so you will not need to use acceptance. Advise fully.

This plainly implied that power to draw and use money had been sent to somebody, but to whom? Mr. Woolley could not learn, and in hot haste he denied knowing anything about the "Rhine" (one) vote, or the "Lima" (acceptance) said to have been sent.

[63.]

TALLAHASSEE, Dec. 5.

HENRY HAVEMEYER, *No.* 15 *West 17th-st., N. Y.*:

No one here knows meaning of words Lima Rhine. FOX.

But at last came the answer to Manton Marble himself. Let "the keen bright sunlight of publicity" fall upon it.

[64.]

NEW-YORK, Dec. 4.

MANTON MARBLE, *Tallahassee*:

Lima should important in once be concert council and better if trust you there very no Warsaw can Fox done time him divided act only Bolivia with and consult here. [No sig.]

(Use Key IX.)

[Translation.]

Telegram here. Proposition accepted if done only once. Better consult with Woolley and act in concert. You can trust him. Time very important and there should be no divided councils.

Here, then, was the authority so anxiously awaited. Here was the authority implied, but not received, in the dispatch to Woolley. "If done only once," because *Woolley and Marble had sent the same proposition, and Gramercy Park did not want to pay twice for the same vote!* Sent, hours ago, in that unintelligible dispatch which Marble had tortured all his keys in trying to read, because *four words had dropped out of it in transmission*, viz.: "then very no Warsaw." Here was the order to buy one Presidency of these United States for "half hundred best United States documents." And the desired vote? The conspirators rushed out—*and it was too late.* The following dispatches tell the story:

[65.]

TALLAHASSEE, Dec. 4.

HENRY HAVEMEYER, *No.* 15 *West 17th-st., N. Y.*

Saturday William if power joined forty further twenty have Charles necessary be Jane you late ten sixteen will with and six twenty too to against secured five from advise appear. FOX.

(Use Key X.)

[Translation.]

Power secured too late. Twenty-five ten appear to have joined with Board against contract from Saturday. Will be prompt and advise you farther if necessary. Jane Charles William. WOOLLEY.

[66.]

TALLAHASSEE, Dec. 5.

Colonel PELTON, 15 *Gramercy Park., N. Y.*:

Bolivia Laura. Finished yesterday afternoon responsibility Moses. Last night Fox found me and said he had nothing, which I knew already. Tell Russia saddle Blackstone.

[Translation.]

Proposition failed. Finished yesterday afternoon responsibility (as) "Moses." Last night Woolley found me and said he had nothing, which I knew already. Tell Tilden to saddle Blackstone.

One secret yet remains: Had the conspirators reason for their hope? They can tell, if anybody will now believe them. Mr. Woolley's dispatch, nearly unintelligible, seems to imply a belief on their part that Attorney-General Cocke, who voted with the Republican members of the Board, to throw out Democratic fraudulent returns from Key West, had been influenced by "dollars." The one thing certain is, that the "dollars" were ready to make Samuel J. Tilden President, but the vote was not. Perhaps they came too late. But if, in the secret purpose of any trusted and sworn member of that Board of three, upon whose action depended the

fate of forty millions of people, there lurked a thought of treachery and crime, the God of Nations saved this land from ruin and dishonor, for his lightnings refused, until it was too late, to bear intelligibly the shameful order to consummate the crime, and held their secret until the danger had passed. He who gave to the poor black in the dim Everglades of Florida the power to defend his rights by his vote; He who inspired the newly enfranchised citizen to stand like a rock for justice, for equal rights and the honor of the Nation, when proud white citizens by the thousand wavered, voted blindly, or sold themselves; He also turned to foolishness all the schemes of Gramerey Park, and all the money of Wall-st. The secret cipher meant nothing when four words were gone. It came at last in full; the buyer stood ready and the money was there, but the vote was not delivered, and the Nation escaped disgrace.

In view of the facts here presented, the following dispatches published at the time, will be found deeply interesting:

[67.]

TALLAHASSEE.

To JAS. GORDON BENNETT, *Herald, New-York.*

Confidential: I assure you, upon my honor, that I cannot find any fraudulent Democratic voting in all Florida; that I can prove thousands of illegal Republican votes. Do not talk of partisanship in the face of infamous and fraudulent schemes that should make any honest man blush with shame to be a Republican. MANTON MARBLE.

[68.]

TALLAHASSEE, Dec. 3.

W. T. PELTON, *Everett House, New-York.*

Our people will prove themselves by their firmness and forbearance worthy of the sympathy and confidence of the National Democracy and all good men of the North. We only ask in this crisis that the voice of the freemen of the North find such prompt and decisive expression as to compel the recognition of their rights. Telegraphic dispatches indicating this sentiment received here within the next forty-eight hours will be most potent in producing this result. J. J. DANIEL.

[69.]

NEW-YORK, Dec. 5.

J. J. DANIELS, *Tallahassee.*

The people of the North look with great anxiety to the final action of the Returning Board in your State to-morrow. All that is desired is a fair, honest count of the votes actually cast so that the will of a majority of your people, as expressed at the ballot box, shall prevail. To this end the country will sustain you in every lawful remedy. It is to be hoped that right and justice will prevail. W. T. PELTON.

THE SOUTH CAROLINA TELEGRAMS.

The Expedition of Mr. Smith M. Weed to Columbia.

BRIBERY AND VIOLENCE.

A great fraud, which the American people have not condoned, and never will condone—never, never, never!—Samuel J. Tilden. *Speech on the steps of No. 15 Gramercy Park*, Oct. 27, 1877.

The cause I have represented has embraced the largest and holiest interests of humanity.—[Samuel J. Tilden. *Speech at Gramercy Park.*

The public interest in an honest, skilful performance of official trust must not be sacrificed to the usufruct of the incumbents.—[Samuel J. Tilden. *Letter Accepting the Presidential Nomination*, July 31, 1876.

A few thousand dollars, and the whole atrocious conspiracy would have been bursted like a puff-ball and blown away in dust.—But I apologize for the suggestion. First, I apologize to Governor Tilden for confronting his character with the morally impossible.—[Manton Marble. *Letter on "The Electoral Commission,"* Aug., 1878.

So that, besides a plan of campaign, here were "arsenals of ammunition" provided, and lethal weapons fashioned to the hand of every hater of fraud.—[Manton Marble. *Letter on "The Electoral Commission."*

The signal and peculiar mark of that plan was this: His absolute trust in moral forces; his entire faith in the people, their volitions and their power. And why, of all men in the United States, should not he?—[Manton Marble's *Letter on "The Electoral Commission."*

The story of the secret operations of the Democratic managers in South Carolina comprises a series of frauds extending over the whole period from the first announcement of the vote in November until the actual assembling of the electoral colleges on the 6th of December. As soon as the critical condition of the contest became known, Smith M. Weed, the leader of the Tilden Democracy in the New-York State Convention of September, 1878, started for Columbia. On the day of his arrival at that place he transmitted by telegraph to the Tilden headquarters in New-York a proposal to bribe the Returning Board. Later on the same day he made a more definite proposal, which "Denmark" promptly accepted. Negotiations were conducted for six days; the price was at last fixed at $80,000; and Mr. Weed started for Baltimore, where a messenger was to meet him with the money. Through a little delay at the last moment the scheme was ruined, for the Returning Board suddenly wound up its proceedings and dispersed in order to avoid the interference of the State Supreme Court. The dispatches relating to these events are written in the same transposition cipher which was used in Florida. A new cipher then appears, relating to money transactions of less moment. And then a third cipher discloses a plot to capture the electoral vote, partly by violence and partly by the corruption of the Legisla-

ture; its culmination being an attempt directed from New-York, to lock up the Hayes electors in jail on a charge of contempt of the void orders of an usurping court, and keep them there until the day of the voting had passed.

I.
THE FIRST ACT.

The first returns from South Carolina in November, 1876, gave the State to the Democrats, but within a few days the aspect of the situation greatly changed. It soon appeared that the vote on Governor was close, and that Tilden's vote was considerably behind Hampton's. So uncertain was the result that on the 11th of November, four days after the election, General Wade Hampton telegraphed to New-York that his own majority was about 1,400, and that of Tilden somewhat less, while Governor Chamberlain at the same time telegraphed that after giving the Democrats everything that they could plausibly claim, the Republicans still had a majority of 3,200 on the Presidential electors and 2,100 on the State ticket. Other Republican authorities claimed a majority in the State of 7,000 for Hayes, and 5,500 for Chamberlain. The fact was that the returns on their face (as it afterward appeared), gave the victory to the Republicans by a pretty close vote; but in two counties, Edgefield and Laurens, the fraud, violence and intimidation had been so flagrant that there was little doubt the Canvassing Board would throw out their entire vote, and this would put both Hayes and Chamberlain very far ahead. The Canvassing Board consisted of H. E. Hayne, Secretary of State; T. C. Dunn, Controller General; William Stone, Attorney General; F. L. Cardozo, State Treasurer; H. W. Purvis, Adjutant and Inspector-General, and M. J. Hirsch, Chairman of the House Committee on Privileges and Elections. All these officers were Republicans; Hayne, Cardozo and Purvis were colored men. Hirsch was a candidate for the office of Solicitor of the 11th District, and did not act with the board, which was thus reduced to five members. It was the duty of the board to receive and canvass the returns of the County Election Commissioners for Presidential Electors, Members of Congress, Members of the Legislature, and all State officers except Governor and Lieutenant-Governor; the votes of these two officers were to be canvassed by the new Legislature.

The chance of Tilden's securing South Carolina under these circumstances appeared so slight that when Mr. Marble, Mr. Woolley, Mr. Coyle and the other noted Democrats dispersed themselves over the South for the purpose of "watching the count," the public apparently forgot to observe who took charge of South Carolina, and the daily papers which fully reported the movements of the gentlemen who visited New-Orleans and Tallahassee, omitted to record the names of the committee detailed to proceed to Columbia. Several eminent Democrats, however, had reached the capital of South Carolina by the middle of the month. Among them were Senator and ex-Governor T. F. Randolph of New-Jersey, Senator John B. Gordon, of Georgia, Montgomery Blair, A. H. H. Stuart and Captain G. V. Fox, ex-Assistant Secretary of the Navy. Most of these gentlemen appear to have confined their activity to the management of legal proceedings in the State Supreme Court, to a supervision of the proceedings of the Returning Board, and to other legitimate actions; and it is almost certain that ex-Governor Randolph at any rate—to say nothing of the others—had no suspicion that "a still hunt" was going on all the while, under daily instructions from Gramercy Park. The person intrusted with the real business of the campaign was Mr. Smith, of New-York, long known as one of Mr. Tilden's closest political friends.

The Canvassing Board was required by an old law, passed at a time when elections were held in October, to meet on the 10th of November, and complete the count in ten days. On the 10th, of course, the returns were not in, and the board could only adjourn from day to day while awaiting them. It fixed upon the 16th as the time for beginning the count of Presidential returns. This would give it six days to finish the canvass, as (allowing for two Sundays) its existence would terminate at noon on the 22d.

THE SECRET AGENT ARRIVES.

On the 10th of November Mr. Smith M. Weed was in the Democratic Committee Rooms at the Everett House, in New-York, where he made the impressive remark to a reporter of *The Herald;* "It is very close, but we have carried the Union *honestly*, and that is the whole thing in a nutshell—we have carried it honestly." He appears to have left the city that afternoon, for on the following day he is known to have been on the same train with John F. Coyle, ("Max,") going South, and on the 12th he was at Raleigh, N. C., where it was alleged at the time in a dispatch to a New-York paper he registered at the hotel under an assumed name. Coyle meanwhile had gone on to Charleston, whence he sends a cipher dispatch to Mr. Henry Havemeyer, New-York, stating that the counting of the votes of South Carolina will begin at Columbia on the 16th, and adding: "Telegraphed W. to go there." On Monday the 13th, the South Carolina Canvassing Board perfected its organization, and the same day Mr. Weed arrived on the field of action. The promptness and evident relish with which he set about the affair upon which he had been sent, must have satisfied Gramercy Park that here was the right man in the right place. "Moses," before he got down to the business of bribery, filled a bushel measure with cipher telegrams about "frauds" and "infernal scoundrels," and the ringing of the "fire-bell in night," and complaints of Woolley and Pelton. The secret agent in New-Orleans protests that "Rip has no common sense," and that "Bryant will stand no

damned foolishness." But Mr. Smith M. Weed goes straight to the point, and in a dispatch of truly commercial brevity announces at once his arrival and the state of trade. Here is his first telegram, addressed according to custom to Mr. Havemeyer, but undoubtedly intended for Colonel Pelton:

[1.]

COLUMBIA, Nov. 13.

HENRY HAVEMEYER, *No. 15 West 17th-st., New-York:*

Very news say Copenhagen to from can Florida you count much in be give what Louisiana am placed if mixed insure London Oregon few intend things out a us here. WEED.

(Use Transposition Key IX.)

[Translation.]

Am here. Things very much mixed. Intend to count us out. *If a few dollars can be placed in Returning Board* [to] *insure, what say you?* Give news from Louisiana, Oregon, Florida.

Although the dispatch was addressed to Mr. Havemeyer, it was answered by "Denmark," and Denmark, as we have seen, is proved to be Colonel Pelton. The New-York bureau was still without definite news from the other States, and Mr. Weed's question about money was evaded.

[2.]

NEW-YORK, Nov. 13.

To SMITH WEED, *Columbia:*

Those results advise Warsaw Rhine well watched Chili Florida and instantly as progress closely be gives they States unless are Carolina us—Edinburgh count received Louisiana out being Mississippi. DENMARK.

(Use Key X.)

[Translation.]

Telegram received. [A word illegible] be Chili. Louisiana gives eight thousand, Florida one, unless they count us out. Those States, as well as Carolina, are being closely watched. Advise instantly progress and results.

Mr. Weed, however, pressed his inquiry about the money for the Canvassing Board.

[3.]

COLUMBIA, Nov. 13.

HENRY HAVEMEYER, *No. 15 West 17th-st., New-York.*

Me you do did to question when you you to morning asked want where go supposed this until come to-night important and answer here Warsaw adjourned to-morrow London you. W.

(Use Key IX.)

[Translation.]

Supposed you telegraphed me to come here. Did you? Board adjourned until to-morrow. *Answer to question asked this morning important to-night.* Where do you want you [me] to go, and when?

"Denmark's" answer was perhaps not quite so explicit as it ought to have been; but, as it will be seen, Mr. Weed had gone ahead in his trade, without waiting for it:

[4.]

NEW-YORK, Nov. 14.

SMITH WEED, *Columbia:*

Will Utica and Thomas Chicago Warsaw you prevent keep America what here do often means fully exhaust with to every advise Lima remain the be. DENMARK.

(Use Key VII.)

[Translation.]

Telegram here. Remain with Hampton [*i. e.* in South Carolina] and exhaust every means to prevent trading. *The expense* [of] *what you do will be met.* Keep fully advised often. Thomas.

In the meantime the public had been led to believe that Mr. Tilden meant to conduct his South Carolina campaign entirely by the machinery of the law. While Mr. Smith M. Weed was reconnoitring the Board, the avowed counsel of the Democratic party were arguing in the State Supreme Court. They first submitted their case to the Board of Canvassers, urging that the board had no power to revise, correct, or throw out any returns, but must only act ministerially in tabulating the figures reported to them by the county commissioners; the statutes conferring upon the board a quasi-judicial authority the Democrats held to be unconstitutional. It was hoped that the returns as they stood would elect a Democratic Legislature. Pending the consideration by the board of this theory as to its powers, the Democratic counsel applied to the State Supreme Court, November 14, for writs of prohibition and mandamus to restrain the board from exercising judicial functions and to prevent Dunn, Cardozo and Hayne, who were candidates for re-election, from passing upon their own cases. Thursday, the 16th, the day set for beginning the electoral count, was also the day appointed for the argument on the mandamus.

BUSINESS.

Mr. Smith M. Weed seems to have cared very little about these forensic contests, believing that the desired result could be more surely reached by another road. He continued his still-hunt, and before receiving Colonel Pelton's dispatch No. 4, he put the following upon the wires:

[5.]

COLUMBIA, Nov. 13.

HENRY HAVEMEYER, *15 West 17th-st., New-York.*

Absolutely Petersburg can procured be Copenhagen may Thomas prompt Edinburgh must if river take be you less London Thames will. W.

(Use Key VI.)

[Translation.]

If Returning Board can be procured absolutely, will you deposit 30,000 dollars? May take less. Must be prompt. Thomas.

Colonel Pelton's reply to this inquiry has not been found; but the nature of it is plain enough from Mr. Weed's rejoinder:

[6.]

COLUMBIA, Nov. 14.

HENRY HAVEMEYER, *15 West 17th-st., New-York.*

No situation prospects and Africa desperate intend Thames soon Europe report every mischief the Warsaw in dispatch in acting this will state all concert morning parties France in and received. W.

(Use Key IX.)

[Translation.]

Dispatch received. *Parties to report this morning.* Chamberlain, Kellogg and Stearns acting in concert, and intend mischief in every State. Will telegraph prospect soon. The situation desperate in all three.

It is to be observed that Smith Weed never flattered Mr. Tilden with assurances that he had carried the State of South Carolina, or any other of the doubtful States. He was evidently in telegraphic communication with his fellow-laborers in New-Orleans and Tallahassee, so that "Africa, Europe and France" were not the only persons who "acted in concert" and "intended mischief." And while Mr. Marble was protesting that Florida rightfully belonged to the Democrats, and that they were ras-

cals who would keep it from him, and that he would "put Uncle Sammy through and end the reign of thieves." Weed invariably admitted that "Uncle Sammy" *had failed to get enough votes.* While every Democratic paper and Democratic orator throughout the land was claiming Tilden had carried South Carolina, and Hampton was telegraphing a similar assertion to the New-York press, Smith M. Weed dispatched a very different sort of intelligence to Gramercy Park. Remember that Hampton himself only claimed a majority of 1,400, and then read the following:

[7.]

COLUMBIA, Nov. 14.

HENRY HAVEMEYER, 15 *West 17th-st., N. Y.*

Figure France capture and over what see answer Europe Moselle Russia shall little and appearances about best hope Glasgow will up keep Oregon America be can Potomac behind Edinburg 1. W.

(Use Key IX.)

[Translation.]

Best I can figure, Tilden will be over 2,600 behind Hampton, and see little hope; shall keep up appearances. Capture Louisiana and Florida. What about Oregon? Answer.

The Oregon scheme was set on foot just at this time. Mr. Marble telegraphed to Governor Grover about the end of November, suggesting that a certificate should be withheld from the post-office elector in that State, evidently supposing that the idea was novel and important; but the plot had already been working for a fortnight, and had nearly reached the point of "purchasing a Republican elector to recognize and act with" Cronin, when Moses offered his advice. The hand of ex-Senator Gwin, "Duke Gwin," appears in the early part of the Oregon manœuvres. It was seen likewise in Florida. It appears repeatedly in South Carolina. "Draw on me for whatever you need," he telegraphed to Wade Hampton, two days after the election; and later there are mysterious references to "Gwin's plan," by which at the very last moment South Carolina was to be taken away from the Republican column. Wherever there were secret transactions in those days, one heard of Duke Gwin.

On the 14th of November Mr. Pelton received discouraging news from Louisiana. Nothing had yet been done in Florida. Marble and Coyle being somewhere on the road between Jacksonville and Tallahassee. The situation indeed looked dark. Weed's "parties" probably did not "report" as promptly as he expected in the morning, and from the following curt message he appears to have lost patience with them:

[8.]

COLUMBIA, Nov. 14.

HENRY HAVEMEYER, 15 *West 17th-st., New-York.*

Warsaw they read all unchanged last are idiots can't situation. W.

(Use Key I.)

[Translation.]

Can't read last telegram. Situation unchanged. They are all idiots.

Moreover Mr. Weed's movements began to excite suspicion in Columbia, and his position grew uncomfortable. He proposed to hurry matters, and then to turn over the negotiation to somebody else

[9.]

COLUMBIA, Nov. 14.

HENRY HAVEMEYER, *No. 15 West 17th-st., N. Y.*

Things our yet working but, party are believe dont America, Russia nothing claims trading I here off definite party mixed seem I select if party in Edinburgh to Danube required disturb proceedings good don't shall to increase it man sure Africa river make to court as watched to better way down think over as turn is send Louis required am that and to Randolph here only well matter if if. W.

(Use Key VI; then Key VIII, twice.)

[Translation.]

Nothing definite yet, but working. Things mixed here. Our party claims Hampton party are trading off Tilden. I don't believe it. Proceedings in court don't seem to disturb Chamberlain party. **Shall I increase to 5,000 if required, to make sure?** Select good man to send down if required, as that is the only way. *I am watched*, and it as well to look out to turn over matter here to Governor Randolph.

DENMARK ACCEPTS.

The answer this time was prompt and positive; for Gramercy Park too was becoming uneasy:

[10.]

NEW-YORK, Nov. 14.

SMITH WEED, *Columbia:*

River can Warsaw Danube future go here to perhaps prospects if you for use necessary trust assist should some done person others must not to be to able and you that doubt it I name you you but is whether part see can Kennedy Utica on him here when advised with leaving you me see Potomac friend to-night train think reach what Russia Warsaw through go Syracuse you keep the do can is on conclusion. DENMARK.

(Use Key IV; then Key X twice.)

[Translation.]

Telegram here. You can go to fifty if necessary. Perhaps use future prospects for some part, but you must see that trading is not done. I doubt whether you can trust it to person you name. Kennedy and others should be able to assist. When do you think you can reach conclusion? Keep me advised. Telegraph what the majority is on Tilden. Friend will go through on train leaving here six to-night. See him.

"You can go to fifty if necessary; perhaps use future prospects for some part." Was there not in the famous letter of Mr. Manton Marble on the Electoral Commission a searifying denunciation of the infamy that would reward the "depatized go-betweens and real principals in the crime of reversing the actual returns," not merely with "the purchaser's own funds," but with "more immoral payments—public offices possessed through a crime and then prostituted for its reward," etc.?

The reference to Governor Randolph in the two dispatches last quoted deserves a word of mention. Weed evidently did not know the character of that honorable and straightforward gentleman. Colonel Pelton evidently did. "Denmark" was prudent not to "trust" such a man with an affair of bribery. And that Governor Randolph knew nothing of this secret business, and had no intimacy with Smith Weed is evident from the following telegram dated only a day later, and bearing his initials, which shows that he supposed nothing was doing in South Carolina, just when the negotiations for the purchase of that State were coming to a

head. It will be noticed that in reckoning up the Democratic workers he has not mentioned Weed. The message is not in cipher:

[11.]

COLUMBIA, Nov. 15.

Colonel W. T. PELTON *Everett House, N. Y.:*

Stuart has gone home; Blair has to return to-morrow; Fox probably. This leaves me. I again repeat that this most important point is overlooked. Louisiana overcrowded. You cannot estimate the importance of sending a few well-known influential men by to-night's train. Argument before Court will run through Friday, and perhaps Saturday. We feel very well. T. F. B.

"Overlooked"! One would hardly think so. But it may be doubted whether the Reformer in Gramercy Park "felt very well" when the following frank statement of his defeat came from his confidential man at Columbia:

[12.]

COLUMBIA, Nov. 15.

HENRY HAVEMEYER, *No. 15 West 17th-st., N. Y.:*

Careful returns of received copies from examination Warsaw out Monroe Moselle Moselle certified Rhine Thames America Glasgow Rhine state Rhine of Ithaca behind Russia officers by estimate Mississippi show Hudson elected Syracuse and Glasgow from about and America and balance full and as change exactly Edinburgh to in compel front and Moselle to have to-night returns it to power to-morrow know us court may shall state it over and electors we can Utica clearly hope to-night of we get certain their London London as officers out Russia the also Rochester can will a as defeat the we London Mosello for of its districts although of Schuykill it Syracuse uncertain save here all France in this care efforts where redouble places America don't live stay is with secret they Thomas and Louis your Europe here to. W.

(Use Key III; then Key VIII twice; then Key VI; then Key VIII again twice.)

[Translation.]

Telegram received. Careful examination certified copies returns from 21 out of 32 counties, and estimate of balance, show Hampton elected by about 1,400 majority, and Tilden and Democratic State officers behind Hampton from 1,800 to 2,000. Shall have full returns and know exactly to-night, and *it may compel us to change front in court to-morrow as to power of Canvassing Board over electors and State officers;* then if, as we hope, *we can get Board to-night certain* [by] clearly [merely?] trading districts we can save two out of the seven votes for Tilden. It's uncertain as it will defeat a majority of the Board, although they don't care to stay here with Hampton Governor. *This is all secret here.* Redouble your efforts in places where Kellogg and Stearns live [i. e. Louisana and Florida.]

This dispatch contains 135 words, and lest Colonel Pelton should be unnecessarily bothered by the combination of keys necessary to make it out, Weed sent another cipher message right after it, as follows:

[13.]

COLUMBIA, Nov. 15.

HENRY HAVEMEYER, *No. 15 West 17th-st., New-York:*

First then long river Danube Warsaw Schuylkill Thomas read Potomac. W.

(Use Key I.)

[Translation.]

Read long telegram—first sixty-five; then seventy. Thomas.

The "long telegram" is so full of matter for reflection that no one should fail to give it a most careful reading. Like all the rest of Mr. Smith Weed's confidential communications, there is a plainness about it which is almost refreshing. This veteran politician is not the victim of enthusiasms or delusions. Never for one moment does he pretend to believe that his client has a good cause. Never for one moment does he conceal from the "claimant" the ugly truth that his case is a desperate one, and that the majority in South Carolina is unequivocally against him. He has the grace to say nothing of "fraud;" but he goes about his purchases in a plain, matter-of-fact way, and discusses rascalities as if they were the ordinary incidents of business. The Democratic party, through its lawyers in Columbia and its newspaper organs all over the Union, wrought itself to a white heat in maintaining that returning officers could only act ministerially and that it was a monstrous invention of Radical villany to assert that the duty of a Canvassing Board is to canvass. To this day the Democrats hold to the same idea. But here, in the very vortex of the excitement, Mr. Tilden's own man sits down quietly to count the returns "on their face," and finding that Mr. Tilden is defeated, even when the votes of the bull-dozed counties are included, he telegraphs: "This may compel us to change front in court to-morrow as to power of Canvassing Board over electors and State officers," and to rest all hopes of victory upon "getting the Board." As soon as they "got" the Board, they were ready to turn right about face, and claim for it the very powers which they were then begging the court to forbid its exercising. And this, as it will be seen in the sequel, is what they actually did! The Democrats of South Carolina will be edified by the discovery that Mr. Smith Weed proposed, after "getting" the board, to count in Tilden by sacrificing some of the local candidates; and there are several indications, in the course of the correspondence, that the relations between the Tilden clique and the Hampton managers were by no means cordial or confidential.

"GETTING THE BOARD, CERTAIN."

The arrangements for "getting the Board, certain," seem to have met with entire approbation in New-York, although, with characteristic caution, Mr. Pelton's principal urged Weed to "try and make one portion payable after votes are cast, and another portion after final result;" adding some touching observations on the subject of "good faith." To the scheme for "trading districts," however, he saw awkward objections, and being a man who values consistency, he expressed his views in a dispatch which would have done credit to Jack Bunshy:

[14.]

NEW-YORK, Nov. 16.

SMITH WEED, *Columbia.*

Be decision undoubtedly should be last but favorable sustainable is had Warsaw to and upon it good there which ground would and here could consistent satisfied impossible it is sustain involve must inconsistencies upon else you electing be issue involved which would or in be papers action America to that [2 words omitted] Utica doubtless Vienna justified Rochester make portion all after by are re-

sult try after is and and prevented final another facts portion and important Lima there done these good are guarantee and but conditions faith very want some what should intended sufficient be you result is both Warsaw. DENMARK.

(Use Key VII four times.)

[Translation.]

Last telegram here. There is undoubtedly good ground upon which favorable decision could be had, but to be consistent and sustainable, it would and should involve electing Hampton, or else it would be involved in inconsistencies impossible to sustain. You must be satisfied that action upon which papers issue is justified by facts, and all trading is prevented. **Try and make [one] portion payable after votes are [cast], and another portion after final result.** Doubtless good faith is intended; but there should be some sufficient guarantee accepted. Both these conditions are very important. Telegraph result, and what you want done.

[15.]

COLUMBIA, Nov. 17.

HENRY HAVEMEYER, 15 *West 17th-st., New-York*:

For this Warsaw the any way misunderstood all state take Ithaca is have definite Warsaw and America plan must soon will sure in officers would former. (Use Key VIII.) S.

[Translation.]

Must have misunderstood former telegram, for Hampton is sure any way, and this plan would take in all the Democratic State officers. Will telegraph definite[ly] soon

No. 15 is given here because it is evidently a reply to No. 14; but the messages often crossed one another on the way, and before the above lines were sent Mr. Weed had made rapid progress.

COMING TO TERMS.

The argument on the mandamus was set for the 16th, and on the night of the 15th Weed succeeded in obtaining from certain members of the Canvassing Board a definite proposition, though the terms were higher than he had been led to expect.

[16.]

COLUMBIA, Nov. 16.

HENRY HAVEMEYER, 15 *West 17th-st., New-York.*

Too last do received answer night late Warsaw understand me don't want to quite you France Schuylkill Thames for night to Copenhagen us river giving late go electors of demand London Danube to the or last river Moselle river home think do least party shall want America to aid who river will are besides I Rhine get intereeder indifferent the what from say no something. W.

(Use Key III; then Key VIII twice.)

[Translation.]

Telegram received too late to answer last night. Don't quite understand. Do you want me to go to home of Stearns [Florida]? **Board late last night demanded 75,000 dollars for giving us two or three electors. The intereeder will want something besides: think ten (thousand).** What shall I do? Get no aid from Hampton party, who, to say the least, are indifferent.

[17.]

COLUMBIA, Nov. 16.

HENRY HAVEMEYER, 15 *West 17th-st New-York*:

France Moselle over man greatest river with am Rhine exertions is there full in not here am power made state are chances but you where that he have should confident Rhine to morning in France be concert success is are Africa I the all this conditional working authority communication Europe for Warsawed on act and that close and in for. S.

(Use Key IX twice.)

[Translation.]

Am confident that Florida is State where greatest exertions should be made. Have you man with full power there? Chances are not over one in twenty here, but am working for that one. Chamberlain, Kellogg and Stearns, are in close communication, and act in concert. *The authority I telegraphed for this morning all to be conditional on success.*

Mr. Pelton replied to both these telegrams at once, and his answer needs not a word of comment:

[18.]

NEW-YORK, Nov. 16.

SMITH WEED, *Columbia.*

Lima should Hudson to London be Warsaw willing Africa unite believe here to and if to it this prevent of best fix was success leave contingently France or can Chicago dependent in think Russia if soil am and final March Utica made inclined you on can't Jane to night open immediately to condition reliable France Anna Captain others Lieutenant exact in you that get see give go friends or visit our safely hands remain me better D.

(Use Key IV; then X twice.)

[Translation.]

Four telegrams here. Should be willing to accept, believe, if Chamberlain and Board unite to prevent trading and expense was made dependent on final success of Tilden in March. Am inclined to think Florida best soil. If you can fix this contingently or leave it open safely, or in reliable hands, you better visit Florida immediately. See that our friends remain; can't get others to go. Give me exact condition to-night. Captain Lieutenant Anna Jane.

The first agreement was for two or three of the electoral votes, to be obtained, we perhaps, by the process of trading districts, hinted at in Dispatch No. 12. Further negotiation was necessary in consequence of Pelton's insisting that the obligation should be made "contingent on the result in March." To this the Board officers would not consent, but they agreed to give good measure, provided they got prompt pay, and to turn over all the seven electoral votes of South Carolina instead of the two or three originally promised.

[19.]

COLUMBIA, Nov. 16.

HENRY HAVEMEYER, *No. 15 West 17th-st., N. Y.*

Now bring safe river thing stuff river Warsaw man would as all Copenhagen to have on Warsaw for Schuylkill though Rochester Schuylkill receiving river the looks at Danube work received now London regular make him and it the certificates with I March depend of on other in on Baltimore will would but officers not meet think at could party morning that stakes to-night Thames have, and which but they agreed Moselle majority is sot report I exact a consulting of will and assented the London is aro with and status Warsawed answer Warsaw to spare me go definite you no Africa but to to-night and soon can France late to-day see will and me to Portugal its for Chicago withdraw (Use Key IX four times.) S.

[Translation.]

Telegram received. **Looks now as though the thing would work at 75,000 dollars, for all seven votes. Have safe man to bring stuff on receiving telegram in morning. Think now I will meet him with party at Baltimore.**

Could not make it depend on March, but would on regular certificate of Board and other officers. The exact status is that two of the Board have agreed and are consulting with the third, which is a majority, and will report to-night. They set stakes and I assented, but can withdraw. Portugal telegraphed Africa to-day to spare no cost. It's late for me to go to Florida but will see and telegraph you to-night. Answer me soon and definitely.

[20.]

COLUMBIA, Nov. 17.

HENRY HAVEMEYER, 15 *West* 17*th-st., New-York.*

Waiting its very anxiously until receipt your am time decision am expect Warsaw powerless important have let to-day you if I will Thomas immediately and France from go go answer elsewhere to court this certainty. W.

(Use Keys III and VI.)

[Translation.]

Am anxiously waiting your telegram. Until its receipt am powerless. Time very important. Expect decision from court to-day. If you have certainty elsewhere let this go, and I will go to Florida. Answer immediately. Thomas.

[21.]

NEW-YORK, Nov. 17.

SMITH WEED, *Columbia:*

Morning Jones Thames here Danube Warsaw Anna Thomas of Captain speak Moselle full Warsaw when Charles this received before left. H.

(Use Key V.)

[Translation.]

Telegram of 35 [words] here. Full telegram left before 2 this morning; speak when received. Thomas Charles Jones Captain Anna.

Unfortunately this "full telegram" has not been found, but the nature of it may be inferred with perfect assurance from the alacrity of Mr. Weed's rejoinder:

[22.]

COLUMBIA, Nov. 17.

HENRY HAVEMEYER, 15 *West* 17*th-st., New-York:*

See Moselle try received perhaps hours parties Warsaw will conditions before get instantly answer and. S.

(Use Key III.)

[Translation.]

Telegram received. [Will?] see parties instantly, perhaps two hours before answer. Will try and get conditions.

ON THE RAGGED EDGE.

It is an interesting circumstance that although the negotiator apparently entertained no doubt of the "good faith" of the persons with whom he was dealing, he had little confidence in the value of the proposed purchase, and he constantly pressed his principals in New-York to buy elsewhere if they could. For one thing, he was embarrassed by the line of argument which the Democratic counsel had adopted in the mandamus case. Since his "careful examination" of the votes had revealed the "desperate" character of the situation, showing that Hayes was elected even on the face of the county returns, *there was nothing he dreaded so much as that the Court might grant the writ which his own party asked for*, and prohibit the Board from exercising judicial functions. If it did this, and the Board obeyed, there would be no possibility of delivering the purchased votes; and to "change front in court" at this stage of the proceedings was not easy, even supposing that the lawyers, who were probably not aware of the secret negotiations, were willing to agree to it. This was a serious hitch in the arrangement.

[23.]

COLUMBIA, Nov. 17.

HENRY HAVEMEYER, 15 *West* 17*th-st., New-York.*

Yet will have closed not act ministerially arrangements other to prevent my London which unless court may parties compell fear works Chili of Monroe Rhine, simply left Blair certainty Randolph with no a and otherwheres hope Bremen for press. W.

(Use Key VI., twice.)

[Translation.]

My parties have not closed yet. Fear Court will compel Returning Board to act ministerially, which may prevent, unless other arrangement with commissioners of one county works. Press otherwheres Chili, for no certainty here, simply a hope. Randolph and Blair left.

The case was argued on the 16th, and on the 17th the Court issued an intermediary order, instructing the board to "canvass" the returns ministerially, in order to save time, and then to report the result to the Court. This was not a final decision of the cause; it only provided for a tabulation of the figures as they stood, leaving open the question of the power of the board to revise and correct them. The work of tabulation was performed immediately, and showed a majority for the Hayes electors ranging from 230 to 1,133, the average being 800, and a majority for Hampton of 1,144. And hereupon the Democratic counsel did promptly "change front in court" and demand that the board should be instructed to go behind the returns and correct "manifest errors" by the precinct reports which were in their possession! It was supposed that this was giving them just rope enough to let in Tilden but not enough to endanger the Democratic State ticket by allowing them to reject the intimidated counties of Edgefield and Laurens.

The way being thus cleared, Smith Weed pushed his negotiations zealously. The following is not transposed:

[24.]

COLUMBIA, Nov. 17.

HENRY HAVEMEYER, 15 *West* 17*th-st., New-York.*

Still hangs by the gills. Will Warsaw [telegraph] later. S.

THE CONTRACT CLOSED.

And then comes the long delayed announcement of success:

[25.]

COLUMBIA, Nov. 18.

HENRY HAVEMEYER, 15 *West* 17*th-st., N. Y.:*

Have Rhine river as is of follows Edinburgh river Mississippi been of Rhine Copenhagen river Rhine Syracuse parcel to secured Danube Potomac river sent Chicago London Edinburgh be river of Danube Rochester given notes be of to America up Danube Edinburgh as be upon and land and Petersburg Rhine all Lima parties of Amsterdam to of or Edinburgh Glasgow Rhine Russia's secure shall to-night packs

every unless the try should friends Warsaw you to countermanding thing being receive without the me from by and Thames to sent inscription be given the for intimidation I and God's fear it of Bavaria friends and their London and sake plan Copenhagen in of watching careful let and Africa Petersburg here force are of can whether night and France it have done Warsaw or be to Copenhagen decided Sunday will go ready this safe Baltimore reach be once in you do at Africa if. W.

(Use Key IX., five times.)

[Translation.]

Majority of Board have been secured! Cost is $80,000, to be sent as follows: One parcel of $35,000 dollars, one of $10,000, and one of 5,000; all to be five hundred or one thousand bills; notes to be deposited as parties accept, and given up upon vote of land of Hampton [i. e., State of South Carolina] being given to Tilden's friends. The three packs should be sent without inscription, and to-night, unless you receive telegram from me countermanding. Shall try to secure everything by the plan of deposit. The friends of Chamberlain and Bavaria [?] are here in force, and I fear their money and careful watching and intimidation of Board. For God's sake let it go if you can. Be safe in Florida or Africa* [?]. Do this at once, and have cash ready to reach Baltimore Sunday night. Telegraph decidedly whether it will be done. W.

The answer seems to have been somewhat tardy, but Mr. Smith Weed made his preparations to start, and in the meantime he telegraphed again:

[26.]

COLUMBIA, Nov. 18.

HENRY HAVEMEYER, 15 *West 17th-st., N. Y.:*

For my result do yourself mind it definite doubtful if B. its sure to but must shall and say meet trying worth get will me to-night London they prudent leave o'clock their Thames [—] by lowest Missouri change river London statement of Glasgow of Moselle errors answer Rhine face of within Russia's can Syracuse Rochester Mississippi on Greece show before. S.

(Use Key IX., twice.)

[Translation.]

Shall leave to-night for B. Meet me yourself, if prudent. *Returning Board say they will do it, sure,* and it's worth trying, but result doubtful to my mind. Must get definite answer before 8 o'clock. Statement of votes by Returning Board shows on face Hayes majority [of?] 900; one of Tilden's [electors] within 230 of their lowest. Errors can change.

The majorities given in this telegram correspond exactly with the figures reported in the New-York papers of the 19th—an agreement which may be taken as evidence of the correctness of the keys to the cipher.

No doubt Mr. Smith Weed did get the "definite answer" he desired "before 8 o'clock," for he broke out in the following exultant dispatch:

[27.]

COLUMBIA, Nov. 18.

HENRY HAVEMEYER, *No. 15 West 17th-st., N. Y.:*

Have at now must you, early Monday to-night ten Baltimore go looks in morning at Copenhagen I well Barnums the W.

(Use Key VI.)

[Translation.]

Looks well now! You must have the money at Barnum's in Baltimore early Monday morning. I go at ten to-night.

And he went. The New-York papers of the 19th of November contained a dispatch from Columbia, saying:

Smith Weed, who has been here since Tuesday, looking after Tilden's interests, leaves to-night for the North.

II.

THE SECOND ACT.

Did Mr. Smith Weed really go to Baltimore on this occasion?" Did a "safe man" meet him there with "the stuff" in three packs? If yes, was this safe man the person whom he specially requested to meet him "if prudent?" The following extracts from the hotel registers answer all these questions:

"Hotel Arrivals, Baltimore, Monday morning, November 20, 1876.

"At Barnum's, SMITH M. WEED, of New-York.

"At the Mount Vernon House, WILLIAM T. PELTON, of New-York."

Both arrived early. Colonel Pelton was accompanied by a friend, with whom, after breakfast, he took a carriage, and in the course of the day it is positively known that this friend was in company with Mr. Weed at Barnum's Hotel. It is highly probable that Colonel Pelton was there too, although his movements have not been satisfactorily traced. But that he left New-York at that critical and anxious time, and made a night journey to Baltimore in obedience to Smith Weed's request, "You must have the money at Barnum's in Baltimore early Monday morning; meet me yourself if prudent," leaves hardly a possibility of doubting that he took with him the $80,000 demanded for the "Majority of Board." It is morally certain that he did not go to Baltimore for the purpose of saying "No."

Before leaving Columbia it was necessary for Mr. Weed to establish a system of communication with somebody at the South Carolina capital, and there were obvious reasons why he should not trust the transposition cipher to any of the Southern politicians who were then attending to the affairs of the party. To say nothing of more serious matters, that cipher might lay bare the evidences of double-dealing with respect to Hampton. He expected to be absent only three or at most four days, and no very elaborate system of cryptography seemed to be necessary for so short

* Possibly a slip of the pen for "America," which would here be understood in the sense of South Carolina.

a time. He therefore drew up a little vocabulary of arbitrary "substitution ciphers," for use during the trip to Baltimore and back. It consisted merely of the adoption of a few proper nouns in place of the "tell-tale words" he expected to need—not a good cipher, because it arouses suspicions, and offers the greatest facility for shrewd guessing. If the specimens of this code were numerous, they could be deciphered with the greatest ease by means of comparisons. It happens, however, that the messages in which it was used are few and short, and with so little material it is impossible to prove the correctness of a key. The despatches, therefore, are merely presented in connection with the narrative of events, and conjectural interpretations are offered, of the plausibility of which every man will judge for himself. Fortunately, these messages are not of great importance.

Who were Smith Weed's Columbia correspondents? They were two, and they signed themselves "Pope" and "Spain." The most active of the Democratic managers at Columbia during these days were Colonel A. C. Haskell, chairman of the State Executive Committee, and Senator Gordon, of Georgia, who paid particular attention to the acts of the Canvassing Board, and of whom one of the local Democratic leaders telegraphed to Colonel Pelton, "Gordon is a tower of strength to us." Weed was in telegraphic communication with both these gentlemen, and there is no indication that he telegraphed to any other person at Columbia. Which was "Spain" and which was "Pope"? This question seems to be clearly enough answered by a dispatch in which S. W. requests Colonel A. C. Haskell to "Please sugar Pope and Bull," etc. "Pope" then was not Haskell, and it may fairly be inferred that he was Gordon, and that Haskell was "Spain." Who "Bull" may have been is unknown; but as this is the only reference to him, the inquiry is not of much consequence.

It was apparently just after the meeting with Pelton that Mr. Weed sent the following dispatch to Columbia,—the earliest found in the new substitution cipher:

[28.]

BALTIMORE, Nov. 20.

General J. B. GORDON, *Columbia*:

Matters tea by London agent. Inform Spain and Jo news W.

The meaning of "London" is known already. "Jo" occurs a number of times in the course of the cipher in relations which leave no room to doubt that it means "telegraph." "Tea" is a word found only twice, and it appears to stand for "arranged" or "arrangement," but any interpretation which can be tested by only two instances is hardly better than a guess, and hence the following reading of the dispatch is offered, not as certain, but as highly probable:

[Translation.]

Matters arranged by Returning Board agent. Inform Haskell and telegraph news.

MORE PROCRASTINATION.

But just at this moment, when the bargain seemed to be practically closed, procrastination and over-caution disarranged the whole scheme. Weed must have received a later communication from New-York, for on the same day he telegraphed again to General Gordon:

[29.]

BALTIMORE, Nov. 20.

General J. B. GORDON, *Columbia*:

Have Bath hold on to Cuba until York or April. May be little delay. W.

By a comparison of the seven instances in which the word "Bath" occurs, and a careful consideration of the events of the days to which these dispatches belong, THE TRIBUNE's interpreters satisfied themselves that "Bath" was the South Carolina Supreme Court; "Cuba" seemed to be the canvass of the electoral votes. "York" is found only twice, and in both instances it reads as if it might mean "fixed"; "April" occurs but twice, and is perhaps equivalent to "failure." These renderings of course are merely conjectural:

[Translation.]

Have the court hold on to the electoral votes, until fixed or failure. May be little delay.

Having dispatched this, Mr. Weed, instead of returning to Columbia, went to New-York by the night train to consult with headquarters. The books of Barnum's Hotel show that he left there after supper, and the books of the Mount Vernon House disclose the fact that Colonel Pelton and his companion returned to New-York by the night train. THE TRIBUNE announced among the "Prominent Arrivals" in New-York during the 21st: "At the Fifth Avenue Hotel, Smith M. Weed, of Plattsburg."

To understand the sudden change of plans it is necessary to see what was doing at Columbia. As already remarked, there was not the most perfect accord between the Tilden party and the Hampton party, and the proceedings in the Supreme Court did not always suit the secret plans of Gramercy Park. On the 20th, the power of the Board of Canvassers to go behind the returns was argued in the court, the Democratic counsel, who had now "changed front" completely, according to Smith Weed's proposal, asking for an order to compel the canvassers to revise and correct their figures, but to a certain extent only. The result of tabulating the returns for Presidential electors was publicly known, but it had not yet been reported to the Court, in compliance with the order of the 17th; the Court instructed the Board to report on the 21st. While this matter remained unsettled, it perhaps seemed to the persons who stood behind Weed and Pelton in this transaction that $80,000 was a large sum to pay for votes which might never be cast; and it is not at all unlikely that they were tortured by doubts at the last moment whether the three purchased members of the Board were acting in "good faith" so Weed proposed that the Court, which had already usurped the authority of a sort of revisory Canvassing Board, should "hold

on to the electoral votes" till the thing was fixed, or till it failed.

THE SOUTH CAROLINA COURT.

What hidden springs of action moved that august tribunal over which Chief-Justice Moses presided it would hardly be worth while to inquire. On the morning of the 21st the Canvassing Board submitted the returns to the Court. They showed on their face the election of the Hayes electors and Republican State officers, with three Republican Congressmen out of five, and a Legislature Republican in the Senate by three majority, and Democratic in the House by four majority. The Legislature was to canvass the returns for Governor, and as the Democrats by this showing had a majority of one on joint ballot, the result would be the counting in of Hampton. In presenting the returns, however the Board reported that the votes of Edgefield and Laurens ought to be thrown out on account of outrageous frauds and violence, and that various palpable irregularities, etc., ought to be corrected. The consequence of doing as they recommended would be the choice of the Republican electors, and a Legislature Republican in both branches. The extraordinary behavior of the Court in this juncture is a matter of history. It commanded the Board to certify the election of all members of the Legislature who appeared to have the greatest number of votes on the face of the returns; *but in relation to the electoral ticket it took the opposite ground, and commanded the Board to revise and correct the figures according to the precinct returns.* And it was thus that "Bath" held on to "Cuba."

This order was issued on the 22d. But on the 22d at noon the powers of the Canvassing Board expired by limitation. Perceiving that the purpose of the Court was to prevent any canvass of the electoral vote (which would have been equivalent to giving the Presidency to Tilden), the Board met on the morning of the 22d, and before the orders could be served it had completed its work, issued certificates to the Hayes Electors and a Republican Legislature (five Democratic Assemblymen from Edgefield and three from Laurens being excluded), and then adjourned *sine die*, so that when the precepts of the Court were issued there was no longer a Canvassing Board in existence to receive them. With this sudden movement, brought on by the lawyers of his own party, Mr. Tilden's chance of getting the Board forever disappeared, and all the negotiations of Smith Weed were brought to nought. The result might have been very different if Tilden's secret agents and the local leaders of the South Carolina Democracy had not been so often at cross purposes.

Weed no sooner reached New-York than he placed himself at the end of the telegraph wire in the Everett House headquarters and began to send and receive cipher dispatches. The messages of "Spain" and "Pope" at this time seem to refer to small sums of money which may have been only for legal expenses, although some of them have a suspicious look. In considering the translations, it is to be understood that while the reading of the transposition and dictionary ciphers is a matter of positive demonstration, these of Weed's rest only on guess-work, of which readers must form their own opinion. "E June" is the only cryptogram in the whole collection to which an initial letter has been affixed. It is a very common device to represent numbers by the first letters of the alphabet; and if "E" in this case means 5, "June" is probably "thousand." The dispatch, it will be observed, was written while the Democrats were exerting themselves to obtain from the action of the Court a Democratic Legislature which would count in Hampton:

[30.]

COLUMBIA, Nov. 20.

SMITH WEED, *care of King, Everett House N. Y.*:

Send E June immediately to Spain. February expect to get Naples House and —— May; but E June can make Naples January. This will make Bath all right. Cuba postponed. Will remain in Bath and make Cuba January. POPE.

[Translation.]

Send 5,000 immediately to Haskell. February [?] expect to get majority House and —— Senate; but 5,000 can make majority Democratic. This will make Court all right. Electoral canvass postponed; will remain in court and make electoral vote Democratic.

No. 30 it appears, was sent to Baltimore, and thence forwarded to New-York after Weed had left.

[31.] COLUMBIA, Nov. 21.

SMITH WEED, *Everett House, N. Y.*:

Pope answered you last night. Send for it, Barnum's. We think Bath [Court] will close to morrow and put Naples [majority] in the House and probably acquire Cuba [electors]. SPAIN.

THE DRY TIME.

When the Canvassing Board adjourned *sine die* in order to avoid the mandamus and injunction, the Court nevertheless persisted in requiring from the members of it a compliance with the orders, although obedience was no longer in their power; and it was to the threats of fine and imprisonment by which Judge Moses sought to uphold his dignity that Pope probably refers in the following:

[32.]

COLUMBIA, Nov. 22.

SMITH WEED, *Everett House, N. Y.*:

Have January friends in New-York inform their friends by Jo in New-Orleans that Bath is firm and Cuba prospects bright. Scarcely a possibility of April. But February and July are hopeless. January House already secured by action in Bath. Answer about E June telegram sent to Barnum's Monday. POPE.

[Translation.]

Have Democratic friends in New-York inform their friends by telegraph in New-Orleans that court is firm, and prospects of electoral vote bright, scarcely a possibility of failure. But February [?] and July [?] are hopeless. Democratic House already secured by action in court. Answer about 5,000 telegram sent to Barnum's Monday.

[33.]

COLUMBIA, Nov. 23.

SMITH WEED, *Everett House, New-York*:

Chicago is too heavy for Cuba unless Tom is sent to Spain. E June is imperatively needed to prevent Naples failing and involving Bath and Cuba. Jo Spain to Paris immediately. POPE.

[Translation.]

Expense is too heavy for the electoral ticket, unless money is sent to Haskell. Five thousand is imperatively needed to prevent majority failing, and involving court and electoral vote. Telegraph Haskell to draw immediately.

It was perhaps not quite clear just yet at Gramercy Park what advantage it would be to the Reform candidate to capture the South Carolina Legislature, and Mr. Weed was not at all prompt in replying to the request for 5,000. But on the 23d the defeated Democratic electors brought an action against the Republican electors at Columbia to determine their title to office, and Mr. Weed's hopes revived:

[34.]

NEW-YORK, Nov. 24—10:30 A. M.

Colonel A. C. HASKELL, *Columbia*:

Please sugar Pope and Bull and Jo whether anything can be York to effect Rome in London now. Tom abundant. Jo immediately. S. W.

[Translation.]

Please consult Gordon and Bull, and telegraph whether anything can be fixed to effect victory in Canvassing Board now. Money abundant. Telegraph immediately.

[35.]

COLUMBIA [No date].

S. WEED, *Everett House, N. Y.*:

Sugar held. Too late. London [adjourned? word blotted]. Bath firm, but Tom necessary. Send E. June to Spain immediately. POPE.

[Translation.]

Consultation held. Too late. Board adjourned. Court firm, but money necessary. Send 5,000 to Haskell immediately.

[36.]

COLUMBIA, Nov. 27.

W. T. PELTON, *Everett House, N. Y.*:

Why don't Smith Weed answer Pope? This of last consequence. HASKELL.

At last the answer:

[37.]

NEW-YORK, Nov. 27.

Colonel A. C. HASKELL, *Columbia*:

If E June can make Naples in House and York May, Spain can Paris as you Jo; otherwise cannot secure tea. S. W.

[Translation.]

If 5,000 can make majority in House and fix Senate, Haskell can draw as you telegraphed; otherwise cannot secure arrangement.

What this "arrangement" was, will be seen in the next Act.

III.

THE THIRD ACT.

In the dispatches between "Pope" and "Spain," at Columbia, and Smith Weed at the Everett House, the translators were compelled to abandon for a short time the safe ground of clear demonstration, and to embark upon the uncertain sea of conjecture. They got back now to a solid footing, for the remaining dispatches of the South Carolina story are in a cipher which can be read according to fixed rules. There are no more cryptograms of the "E June" class, but the same "dictionary code" is employed which was used by Parris in Florida.

THE LAST PLOT.

The South Carolina Legislature met on the 28th of November. The excluded representatives of Edgefield and Laurens Counties being refused admission, all the Democratic members of the House, accompanied by one Republican, left the Capital and organized a House of their own at Carolina Hall. Counting the men from Edgefield and Laurens (who had no certificates), they numbered 64 members; without these they had 56; the Republicans had 59; the number necessary to a quorum of a full house was 63. The legality of both assemblies, therefore, was in doubt. There was no dispute about the Senate; that stood 18 Republicans to 13 Democrats.

In the latter part of November Mr. Hewitt, chairman of the Democratic National Committee, published a statement that President Grant would recognize whichever House should obtain a quorum of members holding certificates from the Canvassing Board. This letter is probably referred to in the following dispatches (not in cipher), which give the first glimpse of the new Democratic plot:

[38.]

COLUMBIA, Nov. 27.

ABRAM S. HEWITT, *New-York*:

Your letter of 24th inst. received. Your suggestions will be observed, but the event upon which success depends will not be effected unless aid is given. See Senator Gwin, and answer by telegraph to-day. Every hour is important. If you concur, telegraph me at once affirmatively.

A. C. HASKELL.

[39.]

Nov. 27.

Hon. ABRAM S. HEWITT, *New-York*:

Consult Dr. Gwin about his dispatch, and answer if I can act on it. WADE HAMPTON.

[40.]

COLUMBIA, Nov. 27.

W. T. PELTON, *Everett House, New-York*:

Hewitt's letter, 24th, to Haskell received. Programme suggested is being followed. The contingency on which this turns depends itself on suggestions made by Gwin some days ago. Can we act it immediately? Consult, and answer without delay. J. B. GORDON.

[41.] NEW-YORK Nov. 27.

General J. B. GORDON, *Columbia*:

What was suggestion of Dr. G.? No one here knows, and he has left. S. W.

The public does not *know* what the suggestion of Dr. Gwin was, because the answer to this telegram of Mr. Smith Weed has not been found; but the "programme" was speedily unfolded. It was, 1. To buy enough members of the Republican Legislature to make a quorum in the opposition body. 2. With the Democratic Legislature thus obtained, to count in Hampton and the whole Democratic State government. 3. To inaugurate these officers by the aid of the rifle-clubs, in spite of any opposition by the Federal authorities. 4. By means of the Democratic State government to declare the Hayes electors intruders, and issue a new set of certificates to the Tilden electors. 5. To attack the title of the Hayes electors also in the State court, and either force them to recognize the jurisdiction of that tribunal, in which case they would be enjoined from acting, or in case of their refusal to recognize it *to imprison them for contempt*

and keep them locked up until the day for the voting was over.

FUN AT THE FAIR.

Preparations for this complicated series of operations were made with all speed. The court issued an order to the Hayes electors to show cause why they should not be enjoined from acting, and made it returnable on the afternoon of the 5th of December, the very day appointed by law for the electors to meet and organize. The rifle-clubs were called together, and as a preliminary to their assembling Wade Hampton sent the following remarkable telegram:

[42.]

COLUMBIA, Dec. 2.

Hon. ABRAM S. HEWITT, *New-York:*
We apprehend further military interference. Protests from other State Legislatures would strengthen, in case you get them to act promptly. Public meetings will aid. WADE HAMPTON.

[43.]

COLUMBIA, Dec. 2.

R. H. KENNEDY, *Greenville, S. C.:*
Fun expected at the Fair this week. Prepare for high sport. Let best boys come, but not too many unless well heeled. V. E. McBEE.

[44.]

JAMES ALLEN, *Florence, S. C.:*
Send up to-night all the right men possible. Inauguration may take place to-morrow. If rifles can be concealed, bring them. Don't wait till to-morrow evening. Come to State Fair ostensibly.
R. G. HOWARD.

[45.]

COLUMBIA, Dec. 3.

W. L. MAULDIN, *Greenville:*
You must go to Spartanburg. I will hold that train for you. Be ready at 12 o'clock to take Air Line train. V. E. McBEE.

[46.]

COLUMBIA, Dec. 3.

W. L. MAULDIN, *Greenville.:*
I have telegraphed Cagle too. Perhaps you had better consolidate men. Extra train may leave Greenville to-night. Bring best men and tool-chest to Fair. V. E. McBEE.

[47.]

Dec. 3.

Gen. JAMES CONNER, *Charleston:*
The Hunkadori Club on the way here for a row to-morrow. See Pickens, and delay train till evening. WADE HAMPION.

[48.]

Dec. 4.

N. A. HUFFMAN, *No. 9 German-st., Baltimore:*
Send John Agnew by express twelve 32 and six 38 pistols. Great excitement. Full plate.
ARTHUR EMORY.

And General James Conner, the Democratic candidate for Attorney-General, and leading counsel for his party in the Canvassing Board cases, added the following:

[49.]

CHARLESTON, Dec. 3.

Major J. G. BAKER, *Columbia:*
Have modified my views about electoral vote. The course Hampton suggests is, I fear, necessary.
JAMES CONNER.

The newspaper dispatches at the time described the sudden gathering of armed men which followed these calls.

COLONEL PELTON TAKES A HAND IN THE GAME.

The news of these proceedings reached Gramercy Park at a most exciting time. Woolley had just telegraphed from Tallahassee (Dec. 1) the offer of the Florida Returning Board for "half of a hundred thousand dollars," and Colonel Pelton had accepted it. Mr. Marble had transmitted (Dec. 2) the extravagant bid of $200,000 for the same article, and had been told that it was too high. Patrick had concluded the negotiation for the purchase of a Republican elector in Oregon, and Mr. Pelton had given him notice (Dec. 2) that he had "deposited the eight as directed." But the plot at Columbia was anxiously watched, and the business of buying a few members of the Legislature—which was an essential part of the scheme—was really managed at Gramercy Park. About the 1st of December a confidential man was sent to Columbia, with Webster's "Pocket Dictionary" in his hand, and the following correspondence took place. The first dispatch is translated by turning back three pages in the "Pocket Dictionary":

[50.]

COLUMBIA, Dec. 3.

Col. W. T. PELTON, *Everett House, N. Y.:*
Cry eandalers roughs greengrocer ridgean enlightens maul these blackened ingress and that resource proboscis roughs yeoman enjoy siege diaphanous enlightens it is farmed shipwright may usury with ridgean imbosom and inestimable propbet gust navel may chess mote which cubes cater retrieve Hampton's un dikes upon coruscate of shipwright cellar gallantry wents inseparable farm to recusant in str p unexpected and henceforward transfuses gallantry tournament duplicity's if you geometry lunch antithesis navel nautical myth to be roughed if venesection nitrate hocus-pocus appurtenance to obstruct this dismantled by garnishes. Please acknowledge receipt forthwith. F.

[Translation.]

County canvassers' returns give Republican electors majority; these believe incorrect, and that regular precinct returns will elect several Democratic electors. It is expected Senate may unite with Republican House and inaugurate present Governor morrow. May cause mischief which courts cannot remedy. Hampton's triumph depends upon contingency of Senate capture; **four votes indispensable. Expect to raise in State twice and half times four thousand dollars, if you furnish like amount morrow morning; money to be returned if unsuccessful.** Must have answer to-night. This dictated by friend Please acknowledge receipt forthwith. F.

(The next is translated by turning back four pages.)

[51.]

COLUMBIA, Dec. 4.

W. T. PELTON, *Everett House, New-York:*
Literati oligarchy rook inefficient if not whence Howitt's drear from alley reprobate palanquin imperishable with lottery redupticate with century broach cits evaporated dints curly office occlusions were shattered obsession paregoric imbricated when dints lot chagrin to publish samphire office requires wormed immaculate repeat for imperishable cowarding in paregoric hilarious. Telegram to Van received. F.

[Translation.]

Last night's request important if not vital.

Hewitt's dispatch. President will recognize only House with legal quorum with Canvassing Board certificates, encouraged Democrats. Couple new negroes were seen necessary other House. When Democrats left Capitol to prevent riot, new recruits wavered; hope recapture for House convening in other Hall. Telegram to Van received. F.

Twenty thousand dollars is a large sum of money in South Carolina, and its use in capturing four Senators is not at all ambiguous. Here is Colonel Pelton's reply:

[52.]

NEW-YORK, Dec. 4.

To F., *care* A. C. HASKELL, *Columbia:*

Doubloon relinquary yeoman duct audience righteous of it yeoman sextuple siege enlightens afterwards purlieu.

(Turn back three pages.)

[Translation.]

Dispatch received. Will do as requested if it will secure several electors. Act promptly

[53.]

NEW-YORK, Dec. 4.

To F. *or* A. C. HASKELL, *Columbia:*

Your last not clear; words 10, 12, 13, 18, 21, 24, 28, 32, 41, 44, make no sense. Yours of last night was answered immediately in affirmative. *Get it and act upon it.* Answer immediately and full.

On Tuesday, the 5th of December, the day before the final vote, two very important orders in the legal part of the plot were to come before Judge Moses's court. The first was the return to the writ of quo warranto by which it was intended to eject the Hayes electors (provided the four votes could be obtained in the Senate); the second was a writ of mandamus to take the returns of the vote for Governor and Lieutenant Governor out of the hands of the Speaker of the Republican House, and give them to the Speaker of the Democratic House. The management of both these affairs was dictated from Gramercy Park.

[54.]

NEW-YORK, Dec. 4.

To F., *care* A. C. HASKELL, *Columbia:*

Independence lanch on reckon wildfire bevy osseous —— [I] if pains to devour peat assert to outright bevy dormouse incommode confederate for corporeal or it balcony the fallow of barb carcass miscalculate bailer for corporeal promise bisect and estimate immolate would bevy asphyxia would bevy humane to indispose them shot embezzle woman anecdote pry dike on your strip literati omnifarious unswathe lassitude us alliance. [No sig.]

(Turn back three pages.)

[Translation.]

Important judge on quo warranto be obtained * * * If order to deliver paper appurtenance to office [i. e., the returns] be disobeyed, immediately commit for contempt, or if [the electors] attempt the exercise of authority by meeting, attach for contempt. Prepare beforehand, and enforce immediately would be appropriate. **Would be humane to imprison them separately during Wednesday.** All depends on your State. Let nothing undo. Keep us advised.

Here, with this attempt to seize by force of arms and the usurped authority of a shameless court the high office which they had tried in four States to buy, the Reformed Democracy may be left to the judgment of history. The South Carolina scheme at last fell to the ground because the one part necessary to give validity to all the rest was not obtained. The four votes wanted in the State Senate could not be bought; the eventful day came; the Republican Senate stood firm; and the votes of the seven electors were duly cast on the 6th of December for Hayes and Wheeler.

THE OREGON TELEGRAMS.

The Operations of J. N. H. Patrick and Senator Kelly.

BUYING AN ELECTOR.

Young men! will you mark these wrong-doers of 1876 with the indignation of a betrayed, wronged and sacrificed people! [A voice: "You bet we will."]—[SAMUEL J. TILDEN. *Speech at Gramercy Park.*

It is a greater crime against mankind than the usurpation of Dec. 2, 1851, depicted by the illustrious pen of Victor Hugo. The American people will not condone it under any pretext or for any purpose.—[SAMUEL J. TILDEN. *Speech at Gramercy Park, Oct.* 27, 1877.

The plot of the Democratic managers in Oregon was to create a Tilden Electoral College after the election, by causing Governor Grover to issue a certificate to one Democrat (Cronin) who had not been elected, in the place of one of the Republican electors who was said to be ineligible. Cronin was then to develop himself into a full Electoral College by "filling vacancies" in his own body, and was to cast the single vote which Mr. Tilden needed in order to become President. But, for the success of this plan it was necessary that

one of the two Republican electors who held regular certificates should be bribed to recognize and act with Cronin. To secure this, one J. N. H. Patrick was sent to Oregon. He corresponded with Colonel Pelton by means of a "Dictionary Cipher," the book used being the "Household English Dictionary" published by T. Nelson & Sons, London, and the translations made by turning forward four pages. Patrick announced that he could "purchase one Republican elector for $5,000, and Colonel Pelton having assented to the arrangement, the money was deposited in a New-York banking house, and transferred by telegraph to Salem, where it was received on the very day of the casting of the vote, but too late to be available. The cause of the delay is explained in the following correspondence:

THE CASE OF OREGON.

It was certain from the start that Oregon had been carried for Hayes. On November 9, two days after the election, Governor Grover telegraphed to *The New-York Herald*, and to a number of persons in California and elsewhere, in almost identical words, "Oregon has gone for Hayes by over 400." To one J. Teal in San Francisco he telegraphed: "Oregon certain for Hayes and Dick Williams." Mr. Pelton sent word to A. Nolter, editor of a Democratic paper in Portland, that Tilden was nevertheless elected; but trouble soon began to appear, and in the course of the same day some of the Democratic politicians frankly confessed that Hayes was elected unless Oregon could be added to the Democratic column. The chairman of the Democratic National Committee telegraphed as follows:

[1.]

NEW-YORK, Nov. 9.

To Governor GROVER, *Salem:*
Send us report of your State. Result of election may depend on your vote. ABRAM S. HEWITT.

[2.]

SALEM, Nov. 9,

ABRAM S. HEWITT, *New-York:*
Oregon Republican by 400. Give us first decisive result. L. F. GROVER.

[3.]

SALEM, Nov. 9.

ABRAM S. HEWITT, *New-York:*
Inform me immediately number electoral votes Tilden has, and prospects. L. F. GROVER.

[4.]

SALEM, Nov. 10.

W. T. PELTON, *New-York:*
Telegraph the first news making Tilden's election certain; anxiously waiting. L. F. GROVER.

And then followed this ingenuous message (unsigned), which suggests that Governor Grover was thought to be talking too much for the good of the party:

[5.]

NEW-YORK, Nov. 10.

Hon. A. J. BRYANT, *Mayor, San Francisco:*
Caution Governor Oregon immediately not to express any opinion as to result in that State. It is evidently very close.

Governor Grover thereupon seems to have become so cautious that even his party friends could not extract an opinion from him. The following impatient message is rather comic when read by the light of the previous one:

[6.]

ST. LOUIS, Nov. 13.

Governor GROVER, *Salem:*
Do send something definite immediately.
SENATOR BOGY.
S. HUTCHINS.

The plan for the capture of an electoral vote for Tilden in Oregon was developed in a dispatch from Mr. Hewitt to Governor Grover, on the 15th of November. One of the Republican electors, John W. Watts, was disqualified to serve, because at the time of the election he was postmaster at Lafayette, in Yam Hill County. He obviated the difficulty by resigning his Federal appointment, and subsequently the other electors chose him, as the law empowered them to do, to fill the vacancy in the electoral body caused by his previous disability, that disability being now removed. The Democratic managers in New-York, however, proposed to Governor Grover that he should assume the authority to withhold the certificate from Watts, and grant it instead to one of the defeated electors on the Tilden ticket, who would then proceed to cast the one vote which Mr. Tilden needed; and this was to be done in spite of the fact that in Oregon, according to the laws of that State, it was not the Governor but the Secretary of State who had to canvass the returns and declare the result. In suggesting this plan to Governor Grover, Mr. Hewitt only stated the strongest legal arguments he could find in support of such an extraordinary and inequitable course. It does not appear that he contemplated the corrupt transactions afterward found necessary to give validity to the Governor's action, nor is any reference found to him in the cipher business. Mr. Hewitt disappeared from the correspondence before there was any question of bribery.

As soon as the Oregon plan was devised, a telegram was sent to Senator Kelly (who had started for the East) requesting him to go back on account of urgent business, and at the same time Colonel Pelton asked Dr. George L. Miller, of Omaha, a member of the Democratic National Committee, to proceed at once to Oregon, and assist in the work. Miller could not go, but he sent Mr. J. N. H. Patrick.

[7.] OMAHA, Nov. 19.

W. T. PELTON, *Gramercy Park, New-York:*
Will send better man first train, 11:45 a. m., to a telegraph office. GEO. L. MILLER.

[8.]

OMAHA, Nov. 19.

W. T. PELTON, *Gramercy Park, New-York:*

My going out of question. Man gone with authority to open letters and telegrams at Salem. Trust me for outcome. GEO. L. MILLER.

The scheme of operations seems to have been arranged at Portland, after a consultation between the Governor, Mr. C. B. Bellinger, chairman of the State Executive Committee, Senator Kelly, Patrick, and others. As a preliminary it was determined to purchase the support, or at least the silence, of the principal Republican paper, *The Oregonian*, by engaging the Editor as "counsel" for the Democratic managers, at a fee of $3,000, although there were several eminent Democratic lawyers who stood ready to attend to whatever legal business might arise without any compensation at all. Then it was deemed necessary to bribe one of the Republican electors to recognize and act with the man whom the Governor intended to appoint. This was the point upon which the whole plot hinged, and to this Mr. Patrick, who had a keen eye for business devoted himself without an hour's unnecessary delay. He received encouragement at the start from a gentleman in New-York whose name will be met with later in connection with the deposit of the money.

[9.]

NEW-YORK, Nov. 27.

J. N. H. PATRICK:

Secure your point at all hazards. Communicate with me immediately, giving prospects. DAVIS.

Mr. Patrick lost no time in establishing the code of cipher which played so large a part in the crisis of the negotiations, and his first use of it stated the conditions of the bargain he had concluded with almost brutal frankness.

[10.]

PORTLAND, Nov. 28.

W. T. PELTON, *New-York:*

By vizier association innocuous to negligence cunning minutely previously readmit doltish to purchase afar act with cunning afar sacristy unweighed afar pointer tigress cuttle superannuated syllabus dilatoriness misapprehension contraband Kountze bisculous top usher spiniferous. Answer.

J. N. H. PATRICK.

I fully indorse this. JAMES K. KELLY.

[Translation.]

Certificate will be issued to one Democrat. **Must purchase Republican elector to recognize and act with Democrat and secure vote and prevent trouble. Deposit ten thousand dollars** my credit Kountze Brothers, 12 Wall-st. Answer. J. N. H. PATRICK.

I fully indorse this. JAMES K. KELLY.

But it occurred to him at the same time that the Republicans might possibly imitate the trick and neutralize all his efforts by capturing an elector in some Democratic State. Anxious to be reassured on this point before he risked money on what might turn out to be worthless, he telegraphed at once to Pelton:

[11.]

PORTLAND, Nov. 29.

W. T. PELTON, *New-York:*

Vizier we latch alb doltish hothouse conceded cunning sojourners. Answer. P.

[Translation.]

Will we lose any Democrat in conceded Democratic States? Answer.

Pelton answered both Mr. Patrick's dispatches at once. He told him there was no danger of losing a Democratic elector. As for the bribe, he did not wish to nay in advance; but otherwise the proposal met with his entire approval:

[12.]

NEW-YORK, Nov. 29.

J. N. H. PATRICK, *Portland:*

Moral hasty sideral vizier gabble cramp by hemistic welcome licentiate musketeer compassion neglectful recoverable hothouse hive innovator brackish association dine afar idolater session hemistic mitre.

[Translation.]

No. How soon will Governor decide certificate? If you make obligation contingent on result in March it can be done and incremable slightly if necessary.

In this dilemma Patrick applied to Dr. Miller for the use of his influence in persuading Pelton to pay cash promptly. Miller used a different dictionary from that employed in the New-York correspondence; but the cipher seems to have been arranged on the same plan as the other, and is so plainly translated by the first five words of the next dispatch that it is unnecessary to seek for the book by which it was made.

[13.]

PORTLAND, Nov. 29.

Dr. GEORGE L. MILLER, *Omaha:*

Telegraph Pelton, Mordant dispensation washing horrid arabesque promptly. What news? P.

[13½.]

OMAHA, Neb., Nov. 29.

W. T. PELTON, *Gramercy Park, N. Y.:*

Do whatever our friend asks promptly. On a still hunt in Nebraska, which you will hear from.

GEO. L. MILLER.

Patrick, in the meantime, sent the following answer to Colonel Pelton's inquiry, and reiterated his demand for cash in advance:

[14.]

PORTLAND, Nov. 30.

W. T. PELTON, *No. 15 Gramercy Park, New-York:*

Gabble achromatic reject waggle refrangible vizier innocuous by tit swing a sacerdotal readmit sympathize hemistic by innocuous taster hepatical cunning cazique afar extancy uniuvited thus crimps action of gabble negligence doltish minutely association o'er taster purchase cunning taster sacrist license graduation drive sympathy disunite neif readmit operatic march jaundiced excitable sympathy syllabus vizier subservient eyeservice syllabus nor readmit doltish minutely proposal medicine brazen licentiate excitable compassion retaliation ridicule. Kelly and Bellinger vizier act cipher suscitate minutely act prayerbook.

[Translation.]

Governor all right without reward. Will issue certificate Tuesday. This a secret. Republicans threaten, if certificate issued, to ignore Democratic claim and fill vacancy, thus defeat action of Governor. *One elector must be paid to recognize Democrat to secure majority.* Have employed three [lawyers] Editor only Republican paper as one lawyer; fee $3,000. *Will take $5,000 for Republican elector.* Must raise money; can't make fee contingent. Sail Saturday. Kelly and Bellinger will act. Cipher them. Must act promptly.

Governor Grover promptly confirmed the statement of Mr. Patrick by his notorious cipher dispatch to Mr. Tilden:

[15.]

PORTLAND, Dec. 1.

SAMUEL J. TILDEN, 15 *Gramercy Park, New-York:*

Heed scantiness cramp emerge peroration hothouse survivor browze of pia mater doltish hothouse exactness of survivor highest cunning doltish afar galvanic survivor by accordingly neglectful merciless of senator incongruent coalesce.

GABBLE.

[Translation.]

I shall decide every point in the case of post office elector in favor of the highest Democratic elector, and grant the certificate accordingly on morning of 6th instant. Confidential. GOVERNOR.

There has been some difficulty in understanding why Colonel Pelton, who was so ready in his assent to Patrick's first proposals, should have hesitated, when it came to the point, about depositing the modest sum of money demanded in Oregon to make his uncle President. But recent disclosures have cleared up what was obscure. It was on the day of this message from "Gabble" (Dec. 1), that Woolley telegraphed from Tallahassee his first offer of the Florida Returning Board for "half of a hundred thousand dollars"; and it was on the same day that Colonel Pelton replied "will deposit dollars agreed; cannot, however, draw before vote of member received." On that memorable 1st of December, too, Colonel Pelton learned that "Moses" was "making propositions to the enemy" in Florida; a piece of intelligence confirmed the next day by the "Bolivia" forwarded by Mr. Marble, "to hand over at any hour required Tilden decision of Board, and certificate of Governor for $200,000." On the 1st of December, likewise, the final scheme for the purchase of "four Senators," and a "couple new negroes" in South Carolina, as a preparation for the forcible ousting and imprisonment of the Hayes electors, was well under way. While these large operations impended it probably seemed like a waste of money to spend $8,000 in Oregon for what at best was only a doubtful chance of throwing the contest for the Presidency into Congress. And so Mr. Pelton still held the purse half shut.

[16.] NEW-YORK, Dec. 1.

J. N. H. PATRICK, *Portland:*

Brazen welcome sanative sisterhood magnanimity afar compound juggler bombardment tit afar dolorous doltish mitre enew watch association o'er sagittarius portal notice sojourn summons welcome commissary gabble afar sanable aggregate.

[Translation.]

Can't you send special messenger and convene Legislature by Tuesday, and elect elector. Necessary expense would be paid. See proceedings other States. Telegraph yourself; consult Governor and Senator. Answer.

The next two dispatches are important because they refute the pretence that these first proposals of Patrick's were rejected at Gramercy Park, and that the money afterward sent to Oregon was intended only for legitimate legal expenses. It will be seen that Patrick fully explained what the funds were needed for, and the reader will observe the precision with which Colonel Pelton lays down the conditions upon which it is to be paid:

[17.]

PORTLAND, Dec. 1.

W. T. PELTON, *Gramercy Park:*

Moveless tamarind taster compound juggler brackish limitation with filth syllabus at pliers minutely graduation innovator medicament buzzards graduation Charles Dimon, 115 Liberty-st, summons innovator taster boatman argosy Salem swing vizier sacrist cunning unweighed achromatic ambiguously at warm grout brazen erratic. Can do no more. Sail morning, Answer Kelly in cipher.

[Translation.]

Not time to convene Legislature. *Can manage with four thousand at present. Must have it Monday certain.* Have Charles Dimon, 115 Liberty-st., telegraph it to Bush, banker, Salem. *This will secure Democratic vote.* All are at work here. Can't fail. Can do no more. Sail morning. Answer Kelly in cipher.

The four thousand mentioned in this dispatch was evidently in addition to the money required for the "Editor only Republican paper," and Colonel Pelton so understood it, for the next day, having determined to make sure of a vote wherever he could, he telegraphed as follows:

[18.]

NEW-YORK, Dec. 2, 1876—8:30 A. M.

J. N. H. PATRICK, *Portland:*

Cuttle doctrinal for consectary excitable anarch definable sweep abhorred welcome at welken hall, Trentals movables taster associating unhorsed twinkle sweep brook oats amphibolous purchase cunning doltish afar dispirit figulate his unweighed taster unrestrained plumous.

[Translation.]

Deposit [ed ?] eight for counsel fee as directed. They advised you at your home. Understand not to be used unless they carry out arrangement, recognize Democratic elector, and duly forward his vote to Vice-President.

Several days before this, Mr. C. E. Tilton, of the Liberty-st. house, telegraphed to Mr. A. Bush, the banker at Salem: "Use all means to prevent certificate; very important;" and Mr. Bush now sent the following dispatch, before the intelligence that the "eight" had been deposited reached him:

[19.]

SALEM, Dec. 2—11:50 A. M.

C. E. TILTON, 115 *Liberty-st., New-York:*

Sabre. *Can myriad [ten thousand] be had for subject matter* if needed? A. BUSH.

The fact is Colonel Pelton had procrastinated too long, and the deposit was useless. Mr. Patrick left Portland in the morning, and when the "eight for counsel fee" was transferred by telegraph to his bankers in Salem, he was already on the way to San Francisco, and the money could not be drawn. Mr. Pelton seems to have been somewhat uneasy at getting no acknowledgment, so he telegraphed again the same day:

[20.]

NEW-YORK, Dec. 2.

J. N. H. PATRICK:

Brazen trentals sail morning hothouse irritate welcome scrub radicate valuation amphibolous summons irritate monkey rider unhorse nauseous veto inmost model sanative welkin summoner taster intervert Everett harshly. W.

[Translation.]

Can't understand "sail morning" in your last. You should remain. *Was arrangement telegraphed last night satisfactory?* Use official [by?] what is needful. Send your telegram to King, Everett House.

Still getting no answer, Pelton telegraphed to Senator Kelly:

[21.]

NEW-YORK, Dec. 2—4:45 P. M.

Hon. J. K. KELLY:

Summons P. irritate monkey afar tantology graduation moral ratiocinat on has be joy aggregate.

[Translation.]

Telegraphed P. last night and to-day. Have no reply. Has he left? Answer.

Senator Kelly's reply showed the state of the case:

[22.]

PORTLAND, Dec. 2—5:35 P. M.

W. T. PELTON:

Hoon taster emponnd juggler joy attenuate summoner amplitude brazen discontent survivor doctrinal cuttle Charles Dimon 115 Liberty-st. taster niveous Bush & Ladd Salem minutegnm graduation innovator medicament brazen trentals intervert Everett harshly irritate welkin summoner.

K. for P.

[Translation.]

Impossible to convene Legislature. P. left before telegram arrived. Can't draw the eight. Deposit Charles Dimon, 115 Liberty-st., to order Bush & Ladd, Salem. Must have it Monday. Can't understand "intervert Everett harshly"—last your telegram.

Senator Kelly complains that he cannot understand three words of Pelton's telegram. This illustrates a difficulty often experienced by some of the persons who used the dictionary cipher, in consequence of an unavoidable defect in that system which they did not understand. The word "intervert" in the cipher stands for "King," which was the name of the clerk who translated dispatches at the Democratic headquarters. The sender of the message, when he turned it into cipher, looked for the word King in his dictionary, and found it to be the sixtieth word in the first column of page 109. In accordance with the rule, he then went to the first column of page 105 to find the cipher equivalent, but that column contains only fifty-eight words, and the sixtieth, "intervert," accordingly comes in the second line of the second column. When Senator Kelly tried to translate the cipher back into plain English, he naturally turned from "intervert" in the second column of page 105 to the corresponding place on page 109, and there he found not "King" but "kiss."

[23.]

NEW-YORK, Dec. 2, 1876.

Received at San Francisco, 2d, 12:10 a. m.

Hon. JAS. K. KELLY, *Portland*:

Summons grouse P's definable off well featherbed empiric avant brazen calender innovator grouse mowing vibration vizard P psalmody daw veto scantiness association dine aggregate.

[Translation.]

Telegraph here P.'s direction. Paid yesterday, following exactly behest. Can't change it here now. When will P. reach destination? What shall be done? Answer.

[24.] PORTLAND, Dec. 3.

W. T. PELTON:

P vizier association at Grand Hotel San Francisco medicament association Salt Lake City sympathy countless swallow graduation taster bedaub medicine neglectful misapprehension immixable recollection inextinguishable welcome brackish ratan innovator. K.

[Translation.]

P. will be at Grand Hotel, San Francisco, Monday: be at Salt Lake City three days thereafter. Have to borrow money on my individual responsibility in trust you can replace it.

Here was the explanation of the whole difficulty. The money was lying in bank at Portland subject to the order of Patrick, and Patrick had gone to San Francisco, leaving matters in the hands of Senator Kelly, who of course could not touch the funds which were deposited in another man's name.

[25.]

NEW-YORK, Dec. 3.

Hon. JAMES K. KELLY:

Summons grouse ruddle accession welcome scantiness association quintessence different moveable erratic achromatic honeymoon abhor pounce.

[Translation.]

Telegraph here. Go ahead. You shall be reimbursed. *Do not fail. All important.* Advise progress.

Then Colonel Pelton hurried to get at Patrick in San Francisco:

[26.]

NEW-YORK, Dec. 4.

J. N. H. PATRICK, *Grand Hotel, San Francisco*:

Matters fixed here just as you first directed. Communicate with your friends there so they can act promptly. Answer.

And Patrick replied next day:

[27.]

SAN FRANCISCO, Dec. 5.

W. T. PELTON, *New-York:*

Just arrived 9 p. m. Have communicated. P.

At the same time he sent the following to Senator Kelly, who remained at the capital of Oregon, trying to get the money:

[28.]

SAN FRANCISCO, Dec. 5.

J. K. KELLY, *Salem*:

Headquarters telegraph me my request granted as first asked. Will make transfer to you to-morrow, *Will programme be carried out?* Answer. PATRICK.

[29.]

SAN FRANCISCO, Dec. 5.

KOUNIZE BROS., *No.* 12 *Wall-st., N. Y.:*

Has my account credit by any funds lately? How much? J. N. H. PATRICK.

[30.]

NEW-YORK. Dec. 6.

J. N. H. PATRICK, *San Fran.:*

Davis deposited $8,000 December 1st.

KOUNIZE BROTHERS.

[31.]

SAN FRANCISCO, Dec. 6.

J. K. KELLY, *Salem:*

Why don't you answer? J. N. H. PATRICK.

Senator Kelly apparently did not answer because he was still unable to get the cash, which the blunder of Pelton, or Patrick, or both, had placed where it could do no good.

It was now the day for the final vote. On the 5th Governor Grover had proceeded to act ont his part in the performance by burlesquing the forms of law and the principles of equity in the Supreme Court-room, where he took his seat on the bench and gravely invited the representatives of the Republican and Democratic parties to argue the question as to the appointment of a person to fill the alleged vacancy in the electoral body. This he did, although he had telegraphed secretly to Mr. Tilden, four days before, that he should "decide every point in the case in favor of the Democratic elector." The Republicans contented themselves with a protest, denying the Governor's jurisdiction. The Democrats argued their side until nearly mid-

night, and then the prearranged judgment was formally postponed until the morning.

Meanwhile extraordinary exertions were made, both at Salem, at San Francisco, and at New-York, to repair the blunder about the transmission of the money. It was known at Gramercy Park that the plot in Florida had failed, and that the prospect in Columbia was unpromising. A second deposit was made—this time in the Liberty Street banking-house.

[32.]

SAN FRANCISCO, Dec. 5.
Received Salem, 6th, 10 a. m.

Messrs. LADD & BUSH:

The funds from New-York will be deposited your credit here to-morrow when bank opens. I know it. Act accordingly. W. C. GRISWOLD.

This message, it will be seen, did not reach Salem till the morning of the meeting of the electoral college, when it was probably too late. Messrs. Ladd & Bush appear to have been too prudent to pay out money in any irregular way, and late in the afternoon of the 5th the following unsigned dispatch, doubtless from Senator Kelly, was placed on the wires:

[33.]

SALEM, Dec. 5—4 P. M.

W. T. PELTON, *No. 15 Gramercy Park:*

Brazen welcome cuttle survivor doctrinal Charles Dimon squab taster niveous Ladd & Bush Salem brazen fracture medicine grout minute-gun graduation innovator venom summons loweringly Salem. We vizard moveless erratic.

[Translation.]

Can't you deposit the eight Charles Dimon subject to order Ladd & Bush, Salem? Can't get money here. *Must have it Wednesday.* Telegraph me Salem. *We will not fail.*

On the morning of the 6th, the deposit was at last arranged:

[34.]

NEW-YORK, Dec. 6.
Received Salem 6th, 2:40 p. m.

LADD & BUSH:

Unable to find Charles Dimon at his office. We hold certificate check payable to your order for $8,000 on Bank of North America subject to your instructions. MARTIN & RUNYON,
40 Wall-street.

NEW-YORK, Dec. 6.

[35.]

LADD & BUSH, *Salem:*

Martin & Runyon have deposited medicine dollars for your account. CHARLES DIMON.

[36.]

SAN FRANCISCO, Dec. 6.

LADD & BUSH, *Salem:*

Deposited $7,380 to your bank. G.

This amount was the equivalent in gold of the $8,000 currency. It was supposed that everything was now fixed, so that the "programme" could "be carried out," and the conspirators telegraphed to Mr. Kelly in some excitement. The first dispatch is doubtless from Mr. Patrick:

[37.]

SAN FRANCISCO, Dec. 6.

J. K. KELLY, *Salem:*

Survivor doctrinal cattled merciless justification mortal sulphury pointer vomitive unhorse welkin demit.

[Translation.]

The eight deposited morning. *Let no technicality prevent winning.* Use your discretion.

[38.]

Dec. 6.

To C. B. BELLINGER, *Salem:*

See Bush. Tell Kelly telegraph result Grand Hotel. Answer P.

And there is little risk in assuming that the following unsigned cipher is from the estimable Colonel Pelton, who rose betimes that with the sun he might his course of duty run:

[39.]

NEW-YORK, Dec. 6—8:35 A. M.

JAMES K. KELLY, *Salem:*

Inmost welkin lorimer buzzard swain minutely association moral mathematics achromatic carpeted neglectful welcome peerage moral rackrent neglectful alb exaggeration rationale flatulent sympathy simpleton sonnetteer aggregate profound.

[Translation.]

Is your matter certain? There must be no mistake. All depends on you. Place no reliance on any favorable report from three Southern States. Answer quick.

The Governor's decision was withheld until the very last moment. A few minutes before the stroke of noon, when the electors were to meet and record their votes, he produced the certificates made out in favor of two Republicans, Odell and Cartwright and one Democrat, Cronin (against whom the people had deposited a majority of more than 1,000), and gave them—*all three to Cronin.* And thus Governor Grover kept his promise to Mr. Tilden. Mr. Cronin refused to surrender or even exhibit the certificates to the two Republicans whom he claimed as colleagues. They, on the other hand, refused to recognize him; and when they proceeded to organize according to law, appointing Watts to fill the vacancy, Mr. Cronin retired into a corner of the same room and there got up a college of his own, appointing two colleagues, and then solemnly depositing a vote for Mr. Tilden. Strange stories are told about about the final scene. Whether one of the Republican electors could have been bought or not, will possibly never be known. But at noon *the money had not arrived.* In this case, as in the two other cases described in these pages, the opportunity for a corrupt bargain slipped away while the paymaster procrastinated. In Florida, as Mr. Woolley telegraphed, "Power" was "secured too late." In South Carolina a "little delay" defeated the project for buying "a majority of Board" for $80,000; and now in Oregon—the last hope of the defeated—it was nearly three hours after the appointed time when the message came to Ladd & Bush that the deposit had been made to their order in New-York. The vast and complex scheme of fraud fell to pieces; and with the following curt and melancholy message, Colonel William T. Pelton retired from practical politics into private life:

[40.]

NEW-YORK, Dec. 8.

J. K. KELLY, *Salem:*

Summons decisive taster redoubted survivor taster ostiary sursolid joy innovator aggregate.

(Forwarded from Salem.)

[Translation.]

Telegraph Dimon to return the —— to party that left it. Answer.

LOCAL TELEGRAMS.

Side-Lights on the Secret Operations in Florida.

CIPHERS FOR HOME USE.

Among the cipher telegrams not originally published with the more important dispatches given in the preceding pages were numerous communications which passed between the local politicians in Florida. Some, though curious in themselves, were omitted from The Tribune's narrative because the case was complete without them, and their introduction would only obstruct the story. Others related to transactions of which the full bearings had not then been discovered. A few of them are given, however, herewith, as an appendix to the history of the conspiracy.

The local cipher telegrams in Florida were, with a few exceptions, composed either of letters having an arbitrary signification, or of numbers standing for the letters of the alphabet. In either case, two characters were used to represent each letter.

THE DOUBLE LETTER CIPHER.

The following is a specimen of the Double Letter Cipher:

[A.]

JACKSONVILLE, 13.
1:12 a. m., Nov. 14.

GEO. P. RANEY:

Yeciemnsppaissitpinsititaashsbyyp
iimimnssspeenaaimaeunsyisnpinsimi
mpcaaityyen. DANIEL.

It was evident, on a slight examination, that each letter in this cipher was not a substitute for another letter, because double characters—for example, ee, pp, yy, aa, nn, ss, etc.—occurred too frequently, and in one case the letter s was found three times consecutively. Probably, then, each letter in the cipher alphabet consisted of two characters Adopting this supposition, the translator turned to the following dispatch, which, being partly in plain English, seemed to promise a clew:

[B.]

JACKSONVILLE, Nov. 22.

S. PASCO, *Tallahassee:*

Gave p p a i s h s h
charge of i t y y i t n
s he sent to m a
p i n s i m y y
p i i t But not to
the other. Brevard returns
sent you to-day E m y
y p i s s a i n y
Gone to Tallahassee Talla
with him and let me know if I
shall send trusty messenger.

J. J. DANIEL.

This refers to the Democratic operations for collecting the precinct returns from all the Florida counties before the Canvassing Board proceeded to throw out those which were manifestly false. It appeared to be nearly certain that the first cipher word was the name of a person, and the second and third were names of counties. If we assume that each cipher consists of two letters, we must find as the equivalent of "ityyitns" a word of four letters, the first and third of which, "it," are the same. "Dade" is the only name in the list of Florida counties which fulfils these conditions. The letters of "Dade" are repeated in the next word, and fit in with the obvious interpretation "Brevard." The six characters now deciphered give as the beginning of the first dispatch quoted above, the following fragment:

"* * ve ***dred d***ar*"

—which, of course, can be nothing but "Five hundred dollars." This gives the cipher equivalent of eight more letters. The construction of the rest of the alphabet was now easy, and in a very short time the first dispatch was made out to be, "Five hundred dollars sent you by express to-day;" and the second was read: "Gave Hull charge of Dade, and he sent to Brevard, but not to the other. Brevard returns sent you to-day. Varnum gone to Tallahassee. Talla [talk?] with him and let me know if I shall send trusty messenger."

The dispatches in this cipher are of little importance by comparison with the correspondence of Marble, Coyle, Woolley and Pelton, written in much more elaborate and difficult cipher-system, and printed in the preceding pages of this pamphlet, yet they are not without value for purposes of illumina-

tion. The telegram about Dade and Brevard was in answer to the following:

[C.]

TALLAHASSEE, Nov. 22.

J. J. DANIEL, *Jacksonville:*

Y s p n s p p s n y o p i e i s s i t e i p i n s e p p e s h e n p e p p v y p e p e p p u s p i u s e i i m p i v y i t e i e p y y s h n y y y n n a a p i e i p e e n e i s s i l y y i t u s p p y v e m u n s e n a a a i i m n s s s p e m m a a a a i t n y y s s p e p p u s p i n s. S. PASCO.

[Translation.]

We hear indirectly that there is Radical majority in Dade. Have you sent good man there?

The Florida politicians trusted a great deal to the Democratic visitors from the North, and seem to have been in frequent communication with New-York all through their time of trouble. One day Colonel Pelton telegraphed to Mr. Raney, of the Florida State Committee, two editorial articles on the Southern situation from *The New-York Herald*, one of them being a column long. For this luxury, Colonel Pelton had to pay $133 20; but perhaps that was not too much, for it was probably the ablest dispatch he ever sent in his life. Mr. Coyle's progress from North Carolina to Tallahassee was traced with the absorbing interest with which a hungry army watches the coming up of the commissariat:

[D.]

TALLAHASSEE, Nov. 11.

P. A. HOLT, *Lake City:*

Be firm; our friend from Raleigh will be down soon.
A. B. HAWKINS.

The distinguished visitors were called upon for all sorts of service. The following telegram was somewhat damaged in transmission, but it is easily repaired:

[E.]

JACKSONVILLE, Nov. 16.

GEO. F RANEY, [*Tallahassee*]:

P p y y e m n s h y y y o i m a s h n s y y s s i t e p a a e n s h n s s e u s s h n s m m p l y y s n p p y c a a p i e i s s y e s h a i n s s s p e c i y y s h n v n s s s y e p i a a n y i t n s s h y y s p y y p i n s y y s s i t e m e i p i m m e i s s c i y y e i s [s] i t e i [e p] y y [p e] e i a a s s i m a [a y] e s p [n s y] y i a n s s s e i s s m m p p n s p i n s s n p i n s i m i m y v i t e m v y s s p e y y m i m n s y y s s i l s p y y p e c p p p m a a a y y p i l t L'Engle goes up to-morrow. DANIEL.

[Translation.]

Have Marble and Coyle telegraph for influential men from Delaware and Virginia. Indications of weakening here. Press advantage, and watch Board. L'Engle goes up to-morrow.

In Baker County, it will be remembered, a fraudulent canvass was made surreptitiously by the County Clerk. The canvassers consisted by law of the County Judge, Sheriff, and Clerk, or any two of them. Taking advantage of a brief absence of his colleagues, the Clerk called in a Justice of the Peace to unite with him in making a canvass which gave a majority to Tilden, and this paper he hastily forwarded to the Secretary of State. Afterward the Judge and Sheriff made a lawful canvass, showing a small majority for Hayes. When their return was submitted to the Board by the Secretary of State, the Democrats professed to be "astounded." They caused it to be represented all over the North that they had no suspicion of the existence of such a canvass until the Secretary of State pulled the "surreptitious" paper out of his pocket, and that nobody imagined there had been any other count of the vote than that made by the County Clerk and his improvised associate. It is rather comical to find, by these newly translated ciphers, that the Democratic "astonishment" was purely theatrical. The party leaders knew all about the double returns, and had been striving their hardest to collect testimony for the purpose of persuading the Board to revise the second count; or to quote the fine language of "Moses" used in reference to the action of the other party, "Emissaries went out over State to cook local backing for alterations in certificates." The following dispatch from Mr. Pasco was sent before the Board had opened any returns:

[F.]

TALLAHASSEE, Nov. 27.

J. J. DANIEL, *Jacksonville:*

Regular Board organized. Will commence work to-morrow. There has been new canvass by full board eissmay yiau supinse peiss eppe im indispensable.
S. PASCO.

The translation of the last sentence is: "There has been new canvass by full Board in Baker; precincts indispensable." So the emissaries went to all the precincts and cooked local backing for alterations, and as a matter of fact the Board did revise the count, and give Baker to the Democrats. No doubt they could have reached their end just as well without the ridiculous pretence of being "astounded." But the captured telegrams abound with evidences of Democratic duplicity and nonsense.

THE DOUBLE NUMBER CIPHER.

The Double Number Cipher employed by the Florida politicians consisted of figures, without any intermixture of words. In undertaking the translation of this cipher it was assumed that the numbers stood for letters of the alphabet and not for words or phrases, since the construction of a vocabulary copious enough to give a separate arbitrary sign for every word that might be required in the course of an active correspondence extending over several weeks would be a work of enormous labor, and the vocabulary when complete would be too clumsy for use. Then it was observed that double and triple numbers occurred frequently in this code, whence it was inferred that, as in the case of the Double Letter Cipher, two figures were used for each letter. The figures were then pointed off by couples and written down in their numerical order. It soon appeared that they began at 20, and that there were twenty-four ciphers in all, 66 being the most frequent, and 93, 82 and 55 coming next in order.

In deciphering correspondence of this class, a knowledge of the relative frequency of the characters is of some help. E is used oftener than any other letter in our language, and after it come t, a, o, n, i, etc., etc. But this general rule does not always hold good in short telegrams, and it proved to be at fault when tried upon the few number-

messages in the possession of THE TRIBUNE. Some other clew to the interpretation therefore had to be sought, and it was found in the following dispatch:

[G.]

TALLAHASSEE, Nov. 19, 1876.

J. J. DANIEL, *Jacksonville, Fla.:*

8455893193276689272042663455
339320348955553903425533934844
555227663320205531316642278296 96
932082664893522793449334823131 27
939382483966822034128248934482 96
396642188284523166422766755552
4839668 23393 0933955278248 66
52484455428248898455096965233
8284684893208233899327189342 2066
8927319348489342965520826889320662766
77558703823309523384188255336677 66
82332748775587931233554284166338766 2727
8233779331938448554266387554893663320966633
20668652274855986625939684318283663320815554
778236636448829606932082668936189348 3131
75932755527714484855965542425534

L'ENGLE.

At the date of this telegram, November 19, the Democratic managers at Tallahassee were in great excitement over the rumor that Governor Stearns meant to claim authority under the statutes of Florida, to canvass the Electoral votes. J. J. Daniel was one of the most important members of the Democratic State Executive Committee. E. M. L'Engle was one of his confidential men at the capital. It was natural to suppose that this dispatch referred to the chief topic of the day, and if so the word "canvass" must be in it somewhere. The problem was, therefore, to find a combination of seven numbers, of which the second and fifth, standing for A, should be the same, and the sixth and seventh (S S) also the same. The translator began at the beginning and tried every sequence of ciphers until at the end of the twelfth line one was found which fulfilled the desired conditions, namely, "84, 66, 33, 87, 66, 27, 27." This agrees well enough with what is known of the average frequency of the different letters; 66 is the commonest of these number ciphers, and A, though not quite so common a letter as E, stands but little below it. If 66 represents A, and 33 represents N, we may safely assume that the combination 66, 33, 20, which occurs four times in this dispatch, means "and." We now have the translation of six of the cipher characters, standing for A, C, D, N, S and V. Writing out the numbers in vertical columns, and placing the equivalent letter opposite every one that has been discovered, we get several pieces of words that are easily filled out. For instance the fragment, "——sand d***a*s," is plainly "thousand dollars," and this gives us six more letters. Twelve important characters being known, the rest follow quickly, and we have this cipher alphabet:

20	d	62	x
25	k	66	a
27	s	68	f
31	l	75	b
33	n	77	w
34	w	82	i
39	p	84	c
42	r	87	v
44	h	89	y
48	t	93	e
52	u	96	m
55	o	99	j

The letters q and z are not in any of the dispatches so far examined.

This alphabet fits all the dispatches on which it has been tried, and it yields, for the one quoted above, the following translation:

TALLAHASSEE, Nov. 19.

J. J. DANIEL, *Jacksonville:* Coyle says draw on Edw. Cooper $1,000 immediate use; he will see it paid. Write him particulars about Paine deposit. Authority communicated in yesterday's letter modified as above. Injunction against Governor canvassing electoral vote, and mandamus to make McLin and Cowgill act immediately will be sought to-morrow. L'ENGLE.

Another dispatch, dated two days earlier, indicates that for some scheme the Democrats had on foot, they did not trust their own Attorney-General:

[H.]

JACKSONVILLE, Nov. 17.

S. PASCO *and* E. M. L'ENGLE:

84	55	84	25	93	31	82	31
31	75	93	82	77	33	55	52
93	20	90 [1]	66	77	65	33	84
63	31	31	93	20	82	33	66
52	48	44	55	42	82	48	89
42	93	31	82	66	75	31	93

DANIEL.

[Translation.]

Cocke will be ignored, Eagan called in. Authority reliable.

If Mr. Coyle's direction to "draw on Edw. Cooper one thousand dollars immediate use" was followed, there is no evidence that the money was needed for illegitimate purposes, or indeed that the draft was paid. Mr. Cooper was the Treasurer of the Democratic National Committee, and Mr. Coyle is the kind of man to draw for one thousand dollars immediate use whenever he gets a chance. He is a very expensive person, and during the Florida campaign he seems to have been drawing all the time. Nor was he the only political agent in that little State who made heavy demands upon New-York. At the first intimation of doubt as to the result of the election, the Florida Democrats began to clamor for money. On the 10th of November, Messrs. Raney and Bloxham, of the State Executive Committee, telegraphed: "To Pelton or Hewitt, Everett House, New-York: How much material aid on sight." Coyle arrived at Jacksonville on the 13th, and instantly informed Mr. Havemeyer:

Necessary supply telegraphic credit of Payne [Treasurer of the State Committee] in First —— Bank, $50,300.

This was a pretty large sum to be spent in a small State after the election was over; but it seems to have been paid, for H. H. replied that the name of the person and the name of the bank were unintelligible, and asked if Coyle could not "draw on 50." On the 18th Coyle united with Mr. Daniel and Mr. W. Call in requesting that the deposit should be changed to the credit of J. J. Daniel, and it is to this transaction that the "number dispatch" translated above probably refers. On the 18th Mr. Coyle drew on "23" for $500. On the 19th he authorized Daniel to draw upon Mr. Cooper for $1,000. On the 21st he drew for $250.

On the 25th he drew for $500. On the 29th he drew for $550. On the 1st of December there is a complaint to Pelton that operations are "embarrassed at a critical time" because Coyle's demand for further supplies are not answered. On the 2d, H. telegraphs to Coyle "Unless you have received will remit again." On the 4th Coyle sends the following dispatch to Henry Havemeyer:

You will supply immediately telegraphic credit Coyle $700, which will probably cover all expenses. Notify me promptly.

To which "P." replied in cipher:

[I.]

Twenty-three thinks all your seven have been forty-one. If not five or two any nine you twenty-one Answer and report.

[Translation.]

"Twenty-three" thinks all your drafts have been honored. If not will remit or deposit any bank you telegraph. Answer and report.

A dispatch which so encouraged Colonel Coyle that he instantly drew again:

[J.]

TALLAHASSEE, Dec. 5.

HENRY HAVEMEYER, *New-York:*

Not notify ten Thomas nine three Moses and this twelve immediately Greece will place twenty takes one Italy seven W. its any and what need. MAX.

[Translation.]

Supply $700 telegraphic credit Woolley and Coyle and notify what bank immediately. Marble will not need any. This takes its place.

As all these drafts were in addition to the large ones made at the close of the canvass, to cover the purchase of the Canvassing Board, the question naturally arises, what can Mr. Coyle have wanted of so much money? There were many queer transactions among the Democrats in Florida during the period between the casting and the counting of the votes, and perhaps the following dispatches may indicate some of the points at which the "material aid" of Colonel Pelton was required. It is well known that the proofs of violence and intimidation practised upon the colored voters in Florida were met in the Canvassing Board by remarkable affidavits from the white Democrats, and it would appear that these witnesses received minute instructions from headquarters as to what they were expected to swear to:

[K.]

Dec. 1.

F. MCLEOD *and* A. B. HAGEN, *Lake City:*

Have Niblack, Ostern and the McKinneys make affidavits that they have never at any time used violence, force or intimidation, or threats thereof, to induce McNish, King, Simmons, Boyd, or Thomas or any other colored men, to vote Democratic ticket. Send affidavits to-morrow.

S. PASCO,
GEO. P. RANEY,
J. J. DANIEL,
S. L. NIBLACK.

Possibly these gentlemen, at Tallahassee or Jacksonville, knew what the McKinneys and other persons had never at any time done in the heart of a remote interior county; at any rate they were particular enough in saying just what they wanted. And it was, perhaps, a bundle of similarly precise affidavits that the enthusiastic but cautious Dickeson refers to in the following dispatch:

[L.]

CEDAR KEYS, Nov. 28.

S. PASCO, *Tallahassee:*

82	44	66	87	93	82	96
39	55	42	48	66	33	48
39	66	39	93	42	27	96
55	42	93	48	44	66	33
89	55	52	93	62	39	93
84	48	93	20	77	42	93
48	87	66	31	52	93	

J. J. DICKESON.

[Translation.]

I have important papers; more than you expected; great value.

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